

Farm Placement
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

State of California
Department of Employment

Research and Statistics
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ES-229 Validation of Foreign Worker Needs in Seasonal Agricultural Activities
July - December 1956

CALIFORNIA

Civilian population in California was estimated at 13,008,000 in March 1956, a rise of 431,000 or three percent during the year. The labor force totalled 5,376,000 in March compared with 5,196,000 in March 1955, also an increase of three percent.

Civilian employment of 5,164,000 in March 1956 was a record high for that month. During the year, employment increased by 222,000. Manufacturing, with 58,000 additional workers, and trade with 51,000 higher employment together accounted for half of the total gain from March 1955. Three other groups - service, government and construction - each reported gains of approximately 25,000.

About 3.9 percent of California's labor force was unemployed in March, compared with 4.9 percent a year earlier.

As a result of a long period of virtually full employment, California agriculture has encountered difficulty in meeting the competition of other industries for available workers. With few exceptions non-farm industries offer higher wages, steadier employment, and better working conditions than agriculture. Consequently California farmers have found it difficult if not impossible to recruit sufficient domestic labor to cultivate and harvest many of the State's most important crops.

Despite the encroachment of urban development on some of the State's best agricultural lands, both the amount of land under cultivation and the yield per acre have been increasing in recent years. Developments in irrigation, notably the growing acceptance of sprinkler irrigation, have resulted in the cultivation of large tracts of land which heretofore have been used only for dry pasture.

The expense of installing irrigation systems and the cost of water are so great that the bulk of the land recently brought into production has been farmed intensively. In addition, the expansion of existing irrigation facilities has permitted more intensive cultivation of land previously irrigated, either by more irrigation or by planting two or more crops successively during the year.

On the whole, the winter of 1955-1956 was beneficial to California agriculture. Early in the winter, heavy warm rain caused extensive flooding of some of the State's finest agricultural land. The damage to 1956 production caused by the December 1955 floods, however, was confined to a few counties. The localized damage was more than offset for the State as a whole by the beneficial aspects of the heavy rains. Large areas of the underground water supply were partially replenished, and the unusually deep snow pack in the mountains assured an ample supply of water for irrigation throughout the 1956 growing season.

California maintained its leading position in the Nation's agricultural economy in 1955, having accounted for almost nine percent of the Nation's estimated gross cash farm income for that year. The gross income received by California farmers in 1955 represented a two percent gain over the preceding year, while the gross farm income for the United States as a whole showed a decline in the same period.

About 77 percent, or \$1,975,996,000 of the total \$2,590,000,000 farm income in California in 1955 was derived from crops which are not under the price support program. Basic crops in California involved in the federal support program are cotton, wheat, and rice. Sugar beet acreage also is controlled, but in a somewhat different manner. The pressure of acreage allotments and marketing quotas had a direct effect on wheat, cotton, rice, and sugar beets in 1955, reducing both acreage and production. Much of the acreage diverted from these crops was used to grow feed grain, corn, barley, alfalfa, and vegetables.

The combined production of fruit and nut crops in 1955, totalling 7,148,000 tons, was the largest since 1951. It was 14 percent above 1954 and two percent above the 1945-1954 average. The 1955 tonnage was produced on 1,285,000 bearing acres compared with 1,277,000 acres in 1954. These estimates of production represent only production of value and do not include culls which were also harvested. Estimates of acreage and production of fruit and nuts for 1955, compared with 1954, reflect two trends which are occurring in California: acreage is expanding, and yield per acre is increasing.

Production of vegetables, exclusive of potatoes, was the highest since 1946. Approximately 5,440,000 tons were produced on 662,900 acres in 1955. This is 649,000 more tons and 46,400 more acres than in 1954.

In 1955, California produced 15,640,000 tons of field crops, including potatoes, on 6,620,000 acres. Production was five percent below that of 1954, but 18 percent higher than the 1946-1950 average. Acreage involved was four percent below that of 1955 but six percent higher than the 1946-1950 average.

With the single exception of the government subsidy and control program, the most influential factor affecting agriculture during recent years has probably been the application of new scientific and technological methods. There has been a great increase in research and product development by industry, agriculture, and government which has resulted in new fertilizers, the control of pests and diseases, and the establishment of many new and improved crop strains. Acreage yields in many instances have doubled or tripled. For example, while acreage planted to tomatoes for processing has declined slightly in the past ten years, per acre yields have risen 2.3 times during the same period. The development of improved strains has permitted more widely diversified plantings in California, which in turn has resulted in longer harvest seasons with increased flexibility and efficiency of operations.

In general, present prospects are favorable for crop production in California this year, and output of livestock, milk, poultry, and eggs is expected to remain at high levels, supported by good pasturage prospects and expected large production of grain and hay.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 7,644,900 acres of major crops to be handled in the last six months of 1956, about one percent more than in the same period last year. A significant expansion of farm acreage is expected in the San Joaquin Valley, with moderate growth in the Central Coast, Desert, and Sacramento Valley areas, a slight increase in the North Coast area, and a decrease of approximately 6,000 acres in the South Coast area.

It is currently estimated that the greatest acreage increase will occur in field crops, principally grain, hay, and seed crops. California Department of Agriculture forecasts of field crop plantings for 1956 indicate increases of from one to 15 percent in acres of oats, barley, sugar beets, and hay. Acreage decreases are expected in corn, wheat, flax seed, rice, dry beans, and potatoes. Government allotments provide for a small increase in 1956 cotton acreage in California.

The number of farms in California is decreasing, but size of farms is increasing. Small family operated truck farms adjacent to urban centers are going out of business, selling land for construction of homes. Larger farms near cities are finding high taxes and high land values are inducements for moving to less densely populated areas. The narrowing margin of profit for farm commodities and high competition from larger farms is causing owners of small farms to sell to the owners of large farms.

Acreage planted to vegetables is estimated to be about 26,000 higher than in 1955. Although the increase is influenced largely by more plantings of tomatoes and melons, small or moderate increases are expected in most vegetables.

While the South Coast area has lost approximately 9,000 acres of fruit to urban expansion, increased plantings of strawberries, grapes, peaches, pears, prunes, plums and walnuts in other areas has more than offset this loss, and approximately 8,700 more acres of fruit are expected to be in production this year than last.

Production is expected to be higher in most crops than in 1955. According to the California Department of Agriculture, 1956 production of peaches, pears, plums, prunes, almonds, and walnuts will exceed that of 1955 and will be higher than the 1945-1954 average.

Forecasts indicate that canning tomato acreage may total 145,000 acres in 1956, which would be an increase of 25 percent over the 1955 acreage, and the highest since the 1951 record year. With increased yield per acre, production could come close to the 1951 record. Late rains were beneficial to field crops, and higher yield per acre is anticipated this year than last.

After the early July between-season lull farm labor requirements start climbing until they reach a peak in early September, then taper off until early November after which they drop sharply.

The 1955 requirements followed the usual pattern, but were influenced by several factors which are not expected to occur this year. Crop seasons were from ten to fourteen days late; a sudden drop in the market stopped the harvest of market tomatoes; alfalfa was heavily infested with spotted aphids; frost damage occurred to peaches, prunes, almonds, and strawberries, curtailing production significantly; fall rains came early; and flood conditions prevailed in December.

Labor requirements for 1956 were estimated on the basis of man-day output and estimates of acreage and production as reflected in tabulations provided for each area. Estimates of acreage and production were obtained from County Agricultural Commissioners, farmers, and farm groups in each county, and were summarized to provide reporting area totals. Allowances were made in the estimates of requirements for an earlier season in those crop activities which were delayed last year, and for flood conditions in December of 1955. Requirements for 1956 follow the 1955 pattern, except that the period-to-period increase is greater in late July and less in early August, and the decline is sharper in late October - all as a result of an expected earlier season.

More workers will be required in all periods of 1956 than last year because of higher crop production, a sustained high level of livestock, poultry, milk, and egg production, an expansion of acreage under irrigation, and expectations of a continuation in the development of new land for agricultural use. Requirement estimates are about two percent above those of 1955 in July and early August, three percent higher in late August, and four and five percent greater in the two September periods. Increases decline gradually from four to one percent between October 1 and December 31.

Principal area of labor demand will be the San Joaquin Valley, in which labor requirements represent almost 43 percent of the State total at the peak in early September. During the same period the South Coast area and the Central Coast area will each require 16 percent of the total for the State followed closely by Sacramento Valley with 14 percent. The remaining 11 percent is divided almost equally between the North Coast and Desert areas.

Crop harvests exerting the sharpest influence on labor requirements during the forecast period are peaches, pears, strawberries, grapes, prunes, walnuts, tomatoes, and cotton. During July, harvests of strawberries, peaches, and pears are in progress. From August 1 to early October harvests of grapes and prunes overlap the earlier fruit harvests. By mid-September harvests of canning tomatoes, cotton, and walnuts are getting under way, thus creating a high overlapping demand for labor in several crops and in most areas. Higher production in all of these crops is a large factor in causing increased labor requirements for 1956.

The expected higher production of fruit, nuts, and vegetables, and the increase in land under irrigation clearly will require many more farm workers in 1956 than were needed in 1955. The number of people who will be available to perform this work, however, is not as clearly defined since many factors influence the labor supply in a state which is growing industrially and which depends heavily upon migrant farm labor.

The level of non-farm employment directly affects labor supply in farm communities contiguous to urban areas, and employment conditions in other states affect migratory farm labor supply.

The non-farm employment increases in California have occurred in industries where continued high employment and stability are forecast, and in which wages are high. Thus a continued pull on the lower paid labor force in both non-farm and farm employment can be expected to continue. With a gradually widening gap in the wages paid for farm and non-farm work, the recruitment of workers for agriculture becomes progressively more difficult.

During the past year in California, new arrivals have been absorbed in the work force, and unemployment has been reduced. These sources of labor have provided some additional workers for agriculture, at least on a temporary basis, but not in sufficient numbers to meet increased farm labor requirements resulting from higher production and expanding acreage principally in high labor using crops.

Other states such as Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Washington, and Oregon also provide migrant workers for California farms. There have been indications that 1956 crop production is expected to be good in these states, and that widespread work opportunities also will be available in nonagricultural industries. If this prospect materializes, California can expect even fewer workers from these states than were available last year. In general, the 1955 labor supply was somewhat lower than in the previous year; however, the decline was not as great in some areas as had been expected. Labor turnover was high, and the quality of available domestic farm workers was lower. As a result the man-day output of domestic workers was reduced in many activities.

The late season of 1955 upset schedules of farm workers, some of whom arrived at the usual time only to find that the activity would be delayed. Some workers moved on to other areas and activities, while others waited for the delayed activity to start. The heavy damage to fruit, notably peaches, prunes, and almonds, also played a large part in the inability to obtain an adequate supply of labor. Early publicity regarding heavy frost damage and the resulting reduction in yield kept many workers away from those fruit harvests despite later publicity which indicated that early estimates of crop loss were high.

The over-all farm labor supply for the last six months of 1956 is expected to be slightly lower than in 1955, principally because of the loss of workers to non-farm industries, but also because improved economic conditions of families who formerly performed farm work is reducing the need for housewives and children to work.

Estimates of labor supply for 1956 follow the pattern for 1955, except that it is assumed that earlier harvest periods will bring workers into the labor force at an earlier date, and that the workers who enter the work force for fruit harvests will withdraw from the labor force earlier. On this assumption, the period-to-period increase is greater than in 1955 in late August and early September, and the decrease is sharper in late October. The estimates are lower than in 1955 by less than one percent except in early August when the supply is expected to be about one percent less, and in late October when the change from 1955 amounts to 1.5 percent.

Farmers, unpaid family, and year-round workers are expected to constitute about 58 percent of the 1956 farm work force at the peak in early September. Of the State total of this group, San Joaquin Valley accounts for 40 percent, South Coast 22 percent, Central Coast and Sacramento Valley each 14 percent, North Coast seven percent, and the Desert area three percent. In areas of large farms, such as the San Joaquin Valley, the year-round workers predominate, while in areas of small farms the farmers and unpaid family workers predominate.

Employment of local workers will, as usual, be the largest group within the hired temporary seasonal worker classification, accounting for approximately 27 percent of the seasonal work force in the peak period.

This group of workers consists of men who work on various farms the year around, housewives, students, part-time, and vacation workers. More than half of the total number of local workers estimated to be employed in the State in early September will be in the San Joaquin Valley. In this area there are many small communities of farm workers, and this basic supply is augmented by thousands of housewives who enter the labor force for the grape harvest.

Intrastate workers are expected to constitute approximately eleven percent of the work force in the peak period. These are the California workers who travel from area to area seeking better working conditions and higher pay, or take vacations by working in other areas. About 56 percent of the State total of intrastate workers usually are employed in San Joaquin Valley in early September, principally in fruit harvests. Few of these workers go to the Desert and South Coast areas at this time.

Interstate workers, who are expected to comprise about four percent of the farm work force at the peak, come from Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico primarily; however, there are a few workers from midwestern and even eastern states. Migrants from Washington and Oregon work in Central Coast, North Coast, and Sacramento Valley fruit harvests, but wind up the season in the San Joaquin Valley harvests of cotton and grapes. Migrants from southwestern states usually go directly to the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast areas. Distribution of interstate migrant workers by area, at the peak, is roughly as follows: San Joaquin Valley (primarily the southern half), 45 percent; Central Coast, 24 percent; Sacramento Valley, 12 percent; Desert, 10 percent; North Coast, 5 percent; and South Coast, 4 percent.

The migration of interstate farm workers into California usually starts in April for the Kern County potato harvest. The workers come through Arizona and the California Desert area where those with inadequate funds work long enough to

provide sufficient money with which to continue their travels to Kern County. This immigration is usually a barometer to the supply of interstate migrants coming from the southwest which can be expected for the season.

The immigration this year has been earlier than usual, but not as heavy as last year.

The first fruit harvest to attract interstate migrant farm workers is the San Joaquin County cherry harvest. Workers come from Washington and Oregon primarily, but a few fruit pickers come from southern states also. Immigration for this harvest usually is an indication of the supply of pickers who will be available for other fruit harvests since these workers move from cherries in San Joaquin County to Sacramento Valley apricots, then to Central Coast cherries, apricots, and later fruit harvests. This year immigration was slow and light, and the San Joaquin County cherry harvest was short 500 workers from May 1 to May 19, and 1,500 workers in late May. This leads to the conclusion that the supply of interstate migrant workers this year will be below that of 1955.

Far fewer Wetbacks were apprehended in California during the fiscal year ended July 1, 1956 than during the previous year. The U. S. Border Patrol reports only 9,560 aliens picked up this year compared with 33,238 last year. These estimates lead to the assumption that the Wetback population, which would be potentially available to Agriculture, is practically non-existent.

A significant increase in labor requirements and a slight reduction in labor supply are expected to widen the gap between the number of workers needed and those available, and labor shortages probably will be considerably higher in the July-December 1956 forecast period than a year ago. The shortage will increase gradually from almost 60,000 in early July to 75,000 in late August. Overlapping requirements for many crop activities are expected to cause a sharp increase to 97,300 in early September, 109,200 in late September, and 111,250, the peak need for supplemental labor, in early October. Shortages are expected to drop from 96,150 in late October to 36,900 in late December. These estimates of labor shortage represent the over-all shortage, all of which may not necessarily be met with employment of Mexican Nationals.

The 1955 labor shortage, including that which was unmet as well as that part which was met by employment of Mexican Nationals, reached a peak of 87,700 in early October. Of this total 58 percent was in vegetable activities, 22 percent in fruit and nut harvests, 12 percent in field crops (primarily cotton), and 8 percent was in "all other agriculture", principally irrigating. About half of the over-all shortage was in the San Joaquin Valley and Desert areas.

The 1956 labor shortage is expected to reach a high of 111,250 in early October, 27 percent greater than at the same time last year. It is estimated that shortages will be from 17 percent higher than in 1955 in early December to 38 percent higher in early September, primarily because of the sharp increase in tomato and strawberry plantings, but also because of anticipated higher production in both fruit and vegetables.

Distribution of the shortage by major crop groups will be roughly the same as in 1955. Distribution by reporting area at the early October shortage peak is as follows: San Joaquin Valley (primarily the north end) 33 percent; South Coast and Sacramento Valleys each 18 percent; Central Coast 16 percent; Desert 14 percent; and North Coast one percent. Proportionately, shortages are expected to be lower in the Desert, South Coast, and North Coast areas this year, and higher in the Central Coast, San Joaquin Valley, and Sacramento Valley areas, centers of tomato and strawberry production.

Estimates of both labor requirements and supply in this ES-229 report are conservative. Because of changing crop conditions, differences in growing seasons, or other unpredictable factors, the use of foreign contract labor may also be necessary in crop activities which this report anticipates will not require their use.

ES-229 DESERT AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (SEE TABLE I)

I. Trends.

No significant change in the number of farms has occurred; although some marginal farmers have been forced out of business by crop loss or inadequate profits, new farms have been started. There is a trend, however, toward larger farms. The change is gradual, increasing as the margin of profit decreases.

Urban and industrial expansion is taking very little farm land in this area. On the contrary, agricultural acreage has undergone considerable expansion. In the Niland district of Imperial County, 4,000 new acres are being planted to citrus crops. Total acreage in Imperial County also has been increased by addition of 1,400 acres, now planted to field crops, which will go into vegetables probably next year. Agricultural expansion is even greater in the Coachella and Palo Verde valleys of East Riverside County, with the addition of some 12,000 producing acres in 1956. According to general practice in this area, this land will produce field crops this year, and then be planted to citrus, vegetables, grain, and some hay. The practice of double cropping also is expanding, particularly in vegetable districts.

No trend toward increased mechanization in this area has been observed, and none is likely to occur in the immediate future for two principal reasons: (1) the abrasive effect of sand on machines makes the cost of maintenance and replacement so high as to be uneconomical; and (2) farm activities which could be mechanized are generally of short duration, so that maximum machine use per year would be low.

II. Assumptions.

Weather conditions in 1955 were fairly close to normal, and estimates in this report are based on the assumption that the same conditions will prevail in 1956.

Although market conditions fluctuated greatly in 1955, this is a situation which exists to some extent each year, having a marked influence on labor requirements from day to day. In general, labor requirements are estimated on the assumption that market demand and price will approximate that of 1955.

III. Revisions.

ES-229 reports for 1955 mentioned the fact that estimates for this area were being evaluated, and that some revisions could be expected after Census data became available. This report reflects revisions made in both labor requirements and employment in Imperial County. Previous estimates for farmers, unpaid family and hired year-round were based on the 5,100 farms reported by the County Agricultural Commissioner. The 1954 Census reports 1,633 farms. Estimates of farmers, unpaid family, and hired year-round workers for 1955 in this report have been lowered by approximately 4,000 on the basis of Census data. In Table I the revision has occurred in "all other agriculture".

IV. Labor requirements.

Estimates of labor requirements for the July-December 1956 forecast period are based on acreage and production, and changes from 1955, as reflected in the tabulation which precedes Table I. Agricultural work will be performed on an estimated 535,000 acres, about 13,400 more than in 1955. Although the greatest acreage gain is in small grain, increases in acreage are expected in all crops except carrots, lettuce, cotton, and alfalfa.

During the forecast period it is estimated that a peak of approximately 34,000 workers will be required in the area in November. When compared with revised estimates for 1955, labor requirements for 1956 are expected to be from 700 higher in early July to 1,700 higher in early September, about 1,000 lower from September 16 to November 15, approximately 750 higher in late November, 1,300 lower in early December, and 1,200 higher in late December. Most of the fluctuations in changes of total labor requirements are caused by the transfer of some minor crop activities formerly included in "all other agriculture" to the major category, and the inclusion of new crop operations in "all other agriculture".

Fruit and Nuts. Acreage has risen from 24,390 in 1955 to an estimated 25,200 in 1956. Labor requirements are from 50 to 600 higher until September 15, 250 lower from mid-September to October 15, and between 100 and 150 higher for the remainder of the forecast period.

Dates. Unfavorable market prices in 1955 caused growers to postpone the bagging operation from mid-July to mid-September. Labor requirement estimates make allowance for this operation in 1956, and for a slower start in the harvest since market recovery is expected to result in more careful picking. Labor requirements are 250 higher in late July, 450 and 600 higher in August, and 400 higher in early September. During the last half of September and the first half of October it is expected that 250 fewer pickers will be required. Approximately 100 more workers will be needed from mid-October to December 31.

Grapefruit. Labor requirements are 60 higher in December.

Grapes. Fifty more workers will be required in July.

Vineyards. Little change in December at the start of pruning.

Vegetables. Labor requirements are 1,100 and 1,300 higher in July, 350 lower in early December, and from 100 to 450 higher in remaining periods.

Beans, snap. Although increased production involves an addition of 200 man-weeks, spreading this over a six-week picking period, 1955 level of need is unchanged.

Carrots. Labor requirements are 520 and 340 lower in December.

Corn, sweet. Not reported as a major crop in 1955. Labor requirement estimates are included for 1956 on the assumption that it will be a borderline crop activity in 1956 and may qualify as a major crop.

Lettuce. Acreage decrease in Imperial County is reflected by a decrease of 100-200 in labor requirements for thinning between mid-September and the end of November. Increased acreage in Palo Verde Valley will cause labor requirements to increase by 100 and 300 in December when the activity gets under way

in Riverside County. The season for lettuce cutting is expected to be earlier this year. Weather conditions appear to be favorable for early maturity, and farmers want to ship as many cars as possible before arrival of the Texas crop causes the market price to drop. Estimates of labor requirements are 250 higher in late September, 550 higher in October, 400 and 200 higher in November, and 200 lower in the two December periods.

Melons, cantaloupes and miscellaneous. The harvest will require 50 more workers in early July. An extension of the harvest period will result in a need for 250 more pickers in late July. Labor requirements for planting the 1957 crop will require 200-300 more workers in December.

Melons, water. Labor requirements for the harvest are 150 and 100 higher in the two July periods.

Squash. The long season will accommodate the small increase in production without any change in labor requirements.

Tomatoes. For the past few years the harvest season has continued to lengthen principally because new strains were found which grew very well in the Imperial Valley, and new tomato districts were found to be virtually frost free. As a result of the change, harvest of the winter crop continues practically into the spring harvest period. Until 1955 this was a market-tomato area. A drop in market price and demand in 1955 came at the time when cannery demand was high, so the balance of the crop was canned. This year, substantial tomato acreage has been contracted by canneries, leading to heavy planting of canning varieties. Harvest labor requirements have been increased by about 900 in July, 300 in early August, and 100 in early September.

Vegetables, miscellaneous. Although acreage is slightly higher, labor requirements have not been changed since these activities go on the year round. Included in this category are harvests of broccoli and cabbage which may qualify as "major" this year.

Field Crops. Labor requirements are 300-500 higher in July, from 100 to 200 higher until October 31, and only slightly higher than 1955 in the last two months of the forecast period.

Cotton. Despite a minor decline in estimated production, labor requirements are not affected significantly because of the length of the harvest period. A decrease of 150 in early November corrects a reporting error in 1955. Little change is expected in the amount of cotton which will be picked by machine.

Grain, small. Although the increase in acreage and production is quite large, estimates of labor requirement will not be affected appreciably. The harvest is highly mechanized and is virtually completed during July.

Hay, Alfalfa. Labor requirements have been increased in amounts varying from 100 to 450 despite a sizeable decrease in acreage and production. This is an allowance for East Riverside County, in which the harvest was not reported as major in 1955, but is expected to be so reported in 1956.

All other agriculture. Reductions made in 1955 estimates of labor requirements in this category underlie the lower estimates of need shown for this forecast period. The range expected is from 17,400 in July and early December to almost 21,000 at the peak of the planting season in September. A rough percentage

breakdown of the total requirement is as follows: land preparation and planting, 13 percent; cultivating, 12 percent; irrigating, 25 percent; dairies, livestock, and poultry, 7 percent; minor crop harvests, 15 percent; maintenance, repair, farm management, weeding irrigation ditches, and other miscellaneous farm work, 28 percent.

Labor requirements for 1956 are above the revised estimates for 1955 in some portions of the forecast period and below during other portions. Labor requirements in those periods which are above those of a year ago include an allowance for more workers to prepare unused land for agricultural purposes--plowing, levelling, irrigating, planting to cover crops, replowing, fertilizing, and final planting.

Wheat. Labor requirements for the harvest are 100 and 100 higher in the two July periods.

Barley. The long season will necessitate the small increase in production without any change in labor requirements.

Tomatoes. For the past few years the harvest season has continued to lengthen. Typically because new varieties were found which grew very well in the irrigated valley, and new tomato districts were found to be virtually free of frost. As a result of the change, harvest of the winter crop continues practically into the spring harvest period. Until 1955 this was a winter-tomato area. A drop in market prices and demand in 1955 came at the time when tomato harvest was high, so the balance of the crop was canned. This year, substantial tomato acreage has been converted to canneries, leading to heavy planting of canning varieties. Harvest labor requirements have been increased by about 300 in July, 300 in early August, and 100 in early September.

Vegetables, miscellaneous. Although acreage is slightly higher, labor requirements have not been changed since these activities go on year round. Included in this category are harvest of broccoli and cabbage which are quality as "winter" this year.

Field Crops. Labor requirements are 300-300 higher in July, from 100 to 200 higher until October 31, and only slightly higher than 1955 in the last two months of the forecast period.

Cotton. Despite a sharp decline in estimated production, labor requirements are not affected significantly because of the length of the harvest period. A decrease of 150 in early November corrects a recording error in 1955. Little change is expected in the amount of cotton which will be picked by machine.

Grain, small. Although the increase in acreage and production is quite large, estimates of labor requirements will not be affected significantly. The harvest is slightly extended and is virtually completed during July.

Hay, Alfalfa. Labor requirements have been increased in amounts varying from 100 to 250 because of increases in acreage and production. This is an allowance for East River County, in which the harvest was not reported as early in 1955, but is expected to be as reported in 1956.

All other activities. Estimates made in 1955 estimates of labor requirements in this category indicate the lower estimates of need shown for this forecast period. The crops expected to peak in July and early September to about 21,000 at the peak of the planting season in September. A rough percentage

ES-229 DESERT AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SUPPLY (SEE TABLE II)

I. Trends and Assumptions.

It has been customary for workers to leave the area in mid-June because of the heat. Usually these workers have returned by late October. In the past two years there has been a noticeable tendency among farm workers to leave earlier and return later.

Fewer domestic workers spend extended periods of time working in this area each year. Several factors contribute to this situation as follows: (1) the nature of the agriculture is such that there are many periods of varying lengths in which workers are idle because of sudden declines in market demand or price; (2) farm housing is limited to camps for single men, occupied predominantly by Mexican Nationals; (3) weather changes are extreme; (4) earnings are below those of northern areas because of periods of enforced idleness and generally lower hourly-wage rates; and (5) the area is isolated from other major agricultural areas. Since little change in these factors can be anticipated in the near future, it is assumed that they will continue to influence adversely the supply of labor available for farm work.

No change is expected in the high labor turnover generally experienced in this area, since much of the migratory work force consists of people travelling through the area, who stop only long enough to replenish their travel funds.

II. Employment.

Employment of domestic workers in this area rises and falls as workers enter and leave through the southern part of the State. During the July-December 1956 forecast period it is expected to decline from 17,200 in early July to 13,800 in early August, the period of hottest weather in the Desert and good work opportunities in other areas of California. From late August to mid-December employment is expected to increase from 15,000 to 18,000 as local workers return to their homes, interstate workers are en route to their home states, and a few single men enter the work force to spend the winter in a warmer, drier climate.

It is estimated that there will be an average of 260 fewer domestic workers employed in the last half of 1956 than in the same period 1955, ranging from 80 fewer in early July to 600 fewer in early August.

Employment by type of worker.

Farmers, unpaid family, and regular workers are expected to remain at the 1955 level. Although land expansion has been significant, it represents principally the enlargement of existing farms rather than the establishment of new enterprises, and the increase in the number of regular workers required would be very small.

The expanded tomato acreage and picking for cannery in July is expected to hold some of the local workers beyond their usual departure date. Estimates of the number of local workers to be employed are 450 higher in July, 100 lower in August, and about the same as in 1955 from September 1 to December 31.

The number of migrant workers in the area in 1955 was generally less than in 1954; and in early 1956 there was increasing evidence that the number was continuing to diminish. Employment estimates allow for approximately 100 fewer intrastate migrants in general, but from 200 to 500 fewer until mid-September because of the expected early harvests and the good crop forecasts in other areas of the State. Estimates of employment of interstate migrants have been reduced by 100-280 for the same reason, and because fewer workers are coming in from other states.

Employment by major crop group.

Fruit and Nuts. Little change is expected. Fruit harvests are relatively small in this area at this time, and few domestic workers are willing to tie, bag and pick dates which are the principal fruit activities in the forecast period.

Vegetables. The canning tomato harvest is expected to attract about 300 more domestic workers in July. It is a comparatively fast harvest with no interruptions because of market changes. During the remaining months of the forecast period, no change is expected.

Field Crops. In July, approximately 150 more local workers will be employed in the alfalfa harvest. In late August 100 fewer workers are expected to be employed in sugar beets. In remaining periods no change is foreseen.

All other agriculture. Revisions and transfers of crops from minor to major will reduce the number employed in the category by amounts ranging from 150 to 750.

III. Types of local workers which are expected to be used.

Local workers in the Desert Area are made up in part by year-round workers, some of whom move with their employers' operation to Arizona and to California's North Coast according to crop and season. There is also a small but efficient group of crew workers who stay in the Valley in spite of the heat, and they are supplemented by those who normally return for fall and winter work. Experienced farm boys work as their school schedule permits. Housewives and youth under age 16 are difficult to utilize in most field activities.

IV. Origin of migratory workers.

During the past year there has been some shifting in the migratory pattern of workers. The east-west movement resulted in fewer workers, but this was offset in part by new workers from Washington, Oregon and Northern California. If this trend continues, the north-south movement will be of increasing importance in the harvest of desert crops. It is interesting to note that although this is a border area, a several months' check of Imperial Valley farm labor offices shows that non-Spanish applicants predominate by more than two to one.

The supply of migratory workers, however, was substantially less in 1955 than in previous years as job opportunities and earnings were available without necessity of moving. If this economic situation continues, fewer outside workers can be expected next fall.

V. Recruitment plans.

Recruitment plans are itemized below, but it should again be noted that some farm activities either do not appeal to or are not suitable except to experienced workers. Wage factors and lack of suitable housing for family groups must also be kept in mind for all recruitment programs.

1. The Weekly Farm Labor Report will show need for workers by crop activity.
2. Radio announcements and publicity through press releases to local newspapers on labor needs and crop progress are issued when needed.
3. Unemployment insurance applicants are screened for farm experience and referred when justified.
4. Direct clearance is maintained with neighboring offices on farm-labor needs which permits adjacent areas to assist when help is available.
5. It is planned to utilize the migrant workers plan on a limited basis with a few responsible employers.

ES-229 DESERT AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SHORTAGES (SEE TABLE III)

I. Need for Mexican Nationals:

1. It is expected that about 10,000 contract workers will be employed in the Desert Area on July 1, 1956.
2. It is probable that about 15,000 Mexican Nationals will be employed on December 31, 1956 and that need for these workers will approximate last year's pattern for an indefinite period.
3. While there is evidence of an increased need for Mexican Nationals in all activities due to an expected lower supply of seasonal workers, there is no major shift in any crop group.

Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in
1956 and Changes From 1955

Area Number: 10-5-01

Area: DESERT

Crop and Activity	1955		1956		Change from 1955	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total.....	521,639	***	535,018	***	+ 13,379	***
Fruit and Nuts Total	24,392	***	25,198	***	+ 806	***
Dates harvest.....	4,430	16,682 T	4,430	18,350 T	0	+ 1,668 T
Grapefruit harvest.....	2,100	840,000 FB	2,200	844,000 FB	+ 100	+ 4,000 FB
Grapes, table harvest.....	8,784	33,551 T	9,078	34,523 T	+ 294	+ 972 T
Vineyards prune.....	9,078	--	9,490	--	+ 412	--
Dates tie down.....	4,430*	--	4,000 *	--	- 430*	--
Dates, bag.....	750*	--	3,000 *	--	+ 2,250*	--
Vegetables..... Total	75,345	564,742 T	78,270	607,754 T	+ 2,925	+ 43,012 T
Beans, snap harvest.....	450	1,148 T	500	1,275 T	+ 50	+ 127 T
Carrots harvest.....	6,100	73,240 T	5,300	63,600 T	- 800	- 9,640 T
Corn, sweet harvest.....	750	2,250 T	900	2,700 T	+ 150	+ 450 T
Garlic weed.....	460	--	460	--	0	--
Lettuce harvest.....	34,900	258,378 T	31,200	228,800 T	- 3,700	- 29,578 T
Melons, cants. Misc. harvest.....	12,765	102,707 T	15,000	121,380 T	+ 2,235	+ 18,673 T
Melons, water harvest.....	8,844	71,134 T	9,700	80,880 T	+ 856	+ 9,746 T
Squash, soft thin-hoe-harvest...	1,926	6,488 T	1,980	6,724 T	+ 54	+ 236 T
Tomatoes Cult-harvest.....	4,650	49,397 T	8,630	102,395 T	+ 3,980	+ 52,998 T
Vegetables, misc.Pl-cult-harvest....	4,500	--	4,600	--	+ 100	--
Beans, snap train-hoe.....	450*	--	500 *	--	+ 50*	--
Lettuce thin-hoe.....	34,900*	--	31,200 *	--	- 3,700*	--
Melons, cants. Misc. pl-cap.....	10,965*	--	12,300 *	--	+ 1,335	--
Melons, water pl-cap.....	5,344*	--	6,200 *	--	+ 856	--
Field Crops Total	421,902	***	431,550	***	+ 9,648	***
Cotton harvest.....	63,672	121,963 B	63,050	120,700 B	- 622	- 1,263 B
Grain, small harvest.....	120,830	110,710 T	135,000	122,850 T	+ 14,170	+ 12,140 T
Hay, alfalfa harvest.....	202,700	990,900 T	195,500	968,500 T	- 7,200	- 22,400 T
Sugar beets harvest.....	34,700	798,100 T	38,000	836,000 T	+ 3,300	+ 37,900 T
Cotton chop-hoe.....	45,622*	--	4,500 *	--	- 622*	--
Sugar beets thin-hoe.....	38,000*	--	38,000 *	--	0	--

* Excluded from totals

T Ton

FB Field box

B Bales

Table I
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-01

Area: DESERT

Crop Activity		July		August		September		October		November		December	
		1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirements.....		27,220	24,460	22,180	24,320	26,780	29,190	32,400	33,350	33,940	33,890	33,460	32,710
Fruit and Nuts Total		1,750	1,300	450	600	400	200	350	900	900	900	960	1,130
Dates	tie-bag-har.	100	250	450	600	400	200	350	900	900	900	900	900
Grapefruit	harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60	80
Grapes	harvest.....	1,650	1,050	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vineyards	prune.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	150
Vegetables Total		4,350	3,100	1,100	820	1,200	2,370	4,460	5,430	5,660	5,090	7,330	7,320
Beans, snap	hoe-har.....	--	--	--	--	--	120	200	--	50	600	600	--
Carrots	harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	600
Corn, sweet	harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	80	100	70	--
Garlic	weed.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	150	100	70	50
Lettuce	thin-hoe....	--	--	--	--	--	50	150	150	150	100	70	50
Lettuce	harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	2,000	2,800	3,000	1,300	1,100	800	800
Melons, cants. & water	plant-cap....	--	--	--	--	--	250	550	400	800	1,700	2,000	2,000
Melons, cants. & misc.	harvest.....	800	600	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	1,900
Melons, water	harvest.....	650	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Squash, soft	thin-hoe-harv.	--	--	--	20	30	70	80	210	230	430	450	200
Tomatoes	cult-harvest.	2,000	1,500	500	50	170	310	340	450	520	610	440	300
Veg., misc.	plant-cult-harv.	900	700	600	750	1,000	1,120	1,240	1,270	1,230	1,150	1,400	1,470
Field Crops Total		3,720	2,560	1,430	3,170	4,210	9,480	10,320	10,100	10,180	8,730	7,770	4,660
Cotton	Chop-hoe....	950	400	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	harvest.....	--	--	--	2,400	3,600	8,000	8,200	7,300	7,200	6,600	5,800	3,700
Grain, small	harvest.....	300	200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hay, alfalfa	harvest.....	1,630	1,460	980	770	610	680	420	300	280	230	270	260
Sugar Beets	harvest.....	840	500	450	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sugar Beets	thin-hoe....	--	--	--	--	--	800	1,700	2,500	2,700	1,900	1,700	700
All other agriculture.....		17,400	17,500	19,200	19,730	20,970	17,140	17,270	16,920	17,200	19,170	17,400	19,600

Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Worker and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July-December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-01

Area: DESERT

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of expected employment												
Total.....	17,220	14,760	13,830	15,220	15,330	16,540	16,950	17,400	17,590	18,040	18,010	17,860
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired..	8,810r	8,520r	8,640r	9,280r	9,320r	9,600r	8,890r	9,000r	9,060r	8,870r	8,840r	8,780r
Local.....	3,840	3,300	2,290	2,400r	2,500r	2,850	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,350	3,350	3,300
Intrastate migratory.....	1,910	1,130	1,250	1,550	1,510	1,790	2,400	2,550	2,710	3,160	3,170	3,300
Interstate migratory.....	2,660	1,810	1,650	1,990	2,000	2,300	2,360	2,450	2,420	2,660	2,650	2,480
Section B. Use of expected employment												
Total.....	17,220	14,760	13,830	15,220	15,330	16,540	16,950	17,400	17,590	18,040	18,010	17,860
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	1,220	700	--	--	--	10	50	100	100	70	70	260
Major Vegetables.....	970	540	210	220	120	310	500	470	630	770	1,290	1,960
Major Field Crops.....	2,360	1,460	930	810	1,010	1,850	2,270	2,210	2,280	2,040	2,380	1,620
All other farm work.....	12,670	12,060	12,690	14,190	14,200	14,370	14,130	14,620	14,580	15,160	14,270	14,020
Section C. Preceding year's employment												
Total.....	17,300r	15,050r	14,440r	15,630r	15,630r	16,670r	17,120r	17,580r	17,810r	18,180r	18,240r	18,240r
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired...	8,810r	8,520r	8,640r	9,280r	9,320r	9,600r	8,890r	9,000r	9,060r	8,870r	8,840r	8,780r
Local.....	3,390	2,850	2,390	2,500r	2,500r	2,850	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,350	3,350	3,300
Intrastate migratory.....	2,310	1,630	1,500	1,750	1,710	1,920	2,470	2,630	2,790	3,240	3,270	3,400
Interstate migratory.....	2,790	2,050	1,910	2,100	2,100	2,300	2,460	2,550	2,560	2,720	2,780	2,760

r Revised

Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop and Need for Contract Mexican Nationals
July-December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-01

Area: DESERT

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	27,220	24,460	22,180	24,320	26,780	29,190	32,400	33,350	33,940	33,890	33,460	32,710
2. Expected employment.....	17,220	14,760	13,830	15,220	15,330	16,540	16,950	17,400	17,590	18,040	18,010	17,860
3. Estimated shortage.....	10,000	9,700	8,350	9,100	11,450	12,650	15,450	15,950	16,350	15,850	15,450	14,850
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	530	600	450	600	400	190	300	800	800	830	890	870
b. Vegetable crops.....	3,380	2,560	890	600	1,080	2,060	3,960	4,960	5,030	4,320	6,040	5,360
c. Field crops.....	1,360	1,100	500	2,360	3,200	7,630	8,050	7,890	7,900	6,690	5,390	3,040
d. All other agriculture.....	4,730	5,440	6,510	5,540	6,770	2,770	3,140	2,300	2,620	4,010	3,130	5,580
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals (1).....	9,200	8,300	6,300	5,550	7,000	11,640	13,760	15,430	15,420	15,400	14,300	13,630
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (2).....	--	--	--	1,400	2,000	1,910	1,600	1,050	1,050	1,020	400	--

- (1) Represents the number of Mexican Nationals who were actually working. Excludes those who were ill, on furlough, or awaiting repatriation or assignment.
(2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

ES-229 SOUTH COAST AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (SEE TABLE I)

I. Trends.

While the number of farms is decreasing rapidly in Los Angeles County, the decline is considerably slower in western Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties where residential and industrial expansion is occurring more slowly. Most of the loss in these counties is in small farms. Some of the farmers who are leaving these counties are moving to less densely populated counties within the same area, however, and the number of farms in Orange and San Diego counties is increasing. In Orange County owners of large farms are leasing small acreages to vegetable growers, while in San Diego County new land is being developed for growing both fruit and vegetables.

An estimated 12,800 acres of farm land in the South Coast area were lost to urban encroachment in 1955. Principal losses occurred in the Pomona, Whittier, Puente, and San Fernando districts of Los Angeles County, in the northern and western part of Orange County, and along the western boundary of Riverside County.

Partially offsetting the loss of farm land adjacent to highly urbanized districts was the addition of approximately 2,200 acres of new farm land in the Fallbrook and Borrego districts of San Diego County and in the desert portion of San Bernardino County during 1955. Current indications are that from 5,000 to 15,000 more acres will be added in these districts within the next one to three years if the water supply is adequate. In the San Bernardino County desert area alone there are 125,000 acres of river bottom land along the Mojave and Colorado rivers which will eventually be converted to farm land, creating a district similar to the Palo Verde Valley in the Desert Area.

Smaller pieces of new land are being developed for farming in the Antelope Valley and the Newhall and Saugus districts of Los Angeles County, in the Moreno Valley of Riverside County, and in the Goleta and Santa Maria districts of Santa Barbara County.

The loss of farms in some districts, and the breaking up of large farms or development of new farms in other districts are bringing about changes in the area's agriculture. New land is first planted to field crops, and then to vegetables in following years. Small acreages leased from large farms are planted to vegetables on a year-to-year basis. The net effect of the changes in the area is a decrease in orange and walnut acreage, an erratic year-to-year change in field crop acreages, and a constant increase in vegetable production. There is a gradual trend away from the one-crop farm to more diversification and more intensive production.

There also is a trend toward greater use of mechanical labor saving devices in harvests of almonds, celery, green lima beans, potatoes and sweet corn. Many of the mechanical devices, however, are still in the experimental stage so use is limited at present.

II. Assumptions.

A period of excessive heat in 1955 caused heavy damage to strawberries and vegetables. This year weather conditions have been favorable for all irrigated crops and higher yield is expected. Cold weather in February and March retarded the bloom of fruit trees, thus reducing danger of heavy frost damage which occurred in 1955. Heavy winter rains in all but one county resulted in later-than-usual vegetable planting, which will tend to lengthen harvest periods. In San Diego County a mild, exceptionally dry winter permitted earlier planting than in 1955.

Farm workers who are finding better-paying nonagricultural jobs usually are the year-round and the better seasonal workers, thus leaving for agricultural jobs those workers who are less qualified and less stable. The deterioration of the over-all farm labor supply has significantly lowered worker output, resulting in a need for more workers to accomplish the job in a given time, or the necessity for extending seasons where perishability is not a factor.

Labor-requirement estimates are based on the assumption that no frost damage will occur after May 1; that spring weather will remain cooler than in 1955; that heat damage will not occur this year; that production per acre will be generally higher, following the trend of the past several years; that lowered man-day output will push labor requirements slightly higher in some crops and will extend seasons of others; and that labor turnover will occur at a higher rate.

III. Labor requirements.

Estimates of labor requirements are based on the acreage and production table which precedes Table I. Work will be performed on an estimated 673,000 acres, approximately 5,800 fewer acres than in the same period in 1955. Major loss of acreage is in Valencia oranges and walnuts. On the other hand, acreage of avocados, lemons, and strawberries is expanding. Production per acre is expected to be higher in most crops.

Approximately 104,700 farm workers will be required at the peak of the forecast period in July, and 102,000 at the secondary peak in late September. Requirements for the forecast period average 2,500 higher than in 1955, ranging from 725 higher in late December to 3,600 higher in early October. The October increase is expected to be caused principally by higher production in strawberries, walnuts, and tomatoes.

Fruit and Nuts. Approximately 227,400 acres of fruit will be harvested during the forecast period, about 9,200 fewer than in the same period in 1955. Urban encroachment has taken approximately 12,000 acres of Valencia oranges and walnuts, mostly older groves which were past their prime. At the same time there have been sizeable increases of avocado, strawberry, and lemon acreages in other parts of the area. Since the Valencia orange and walnut harvests are of relatively short duration and work continues in avocados, lemons and strawberries practically the year round, this change will have a marked effect on labor requirements. Production of most fruit crops is expected to be as high as in 1956.

Labor requirements for fruits and nuts are expected to average about 1,200 higher than in 1955, ranging from a low of 320 in late December to a high of 1,800 in early August. Crop harvests causing the over-all increase are principally strawberries, Valencia oranges, peaches and walnuts.

Apples. Harvest is expected to start two weeks earlier and last one or two weeks longer than in 1955. Peak will be about the same. Labor requirements are 60 and 80 higher in late September and early October, and 60 higher in late November and early December--allowance for the extended season.

Apricots. Although production is expected to be higher, labor requirements will not change significantly since cutting machines are expected to be used. Lowered labor requirements for cutting probably will offset the increased need for pickers at the end of the harvest period.

Avocados. Conflicting influences in this crop will reduce production in the face of an acreage increase. The acreage increase represents new, light-bearing groves. This will necessitate greater coverage of lower-producing groves, thus increasing labor requirements. New farmers, family, and hired year-round workers will enter the work force since small farms are involved. The heat of September 1955 affected the set of avocados which would normally mature in May and June. Because of the expected lower production in mature groves, there will be a reduction in hours worked per day and days worked per week so total labor requirements will be affected very little during the summer months. The new Fuerte crop which begins in December is expected to be heavier than in 1955, increasing labor requirements accordingly. Labor requirements have been increased by 50 through October, left unchanged in November, and increased by 150 in the two December periods.

Berries, bush. The crop was poor last year. A normal crop is expected this year. Labor requirements are 20 lower in early July and 50 higher in late July and early August. No change is anticipated in the prune-tie operation.

Berries, straw. The 1955 crop was severely damaged by heat, so production was below normal. To date no serious damage has occurred to the 1956 crop. New varieties, which produce over a longer period, have been planted in the expanded acreage. Increased plantings are reported in San Diego, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties. Peak periods of harvest differ somewhat by county, which causes some fluctuation in changes from 1955 labor requirements. There will be between 700 and 900 more workers required in July, early August, and early September. In late August and in October, labor requirements are expected to be 400-500 higher. In November and December the increase ranges from 50 to 150.

Grapefruit. Major grapefruit counties are Riverside and San Bernardino. No change is expected in labor requirements for Riverside County, but prospects of heavier production in San Bernardino County will increase labor requirements there from 50 in early July to 100 in early September.

Grapes. Acreage of table grapes is expanding in Borrego Valley while vines are being pulled out in the wine-grape districts. Yield of wine grapes per acre is expected to be somewhat higher this year, with a longer season expected rather than a higher peak. Labor requirements for the table-grape harvest have been increased by 80 in July and 50 in August. The number of pickers needed for the wine-grape harvest has been reduced by 150 and 100 in the two September periods, and increased by 80 in early October to allow for the longer season.

Lemons. Changes in the crop are complex during the July-December forecast period. Heat damage, which occurred in 1955, affected this year's production and timing considerably. The extent of damage in growing areas varies. Picking in February and March was heavier than usual this year, reducing

subsequent labor requirements. In Los Angeles, Riverside, and Orange counties the picking is expected to be very light from July to mid-October. In Ventura and San Bernardino counties the decline from the peak is expected to start earlier. Summer crop picking during September and October, is expected to be heavier than that of 1955 since this fruit was not damaged. Labor requirements are 270 and 120 lower in July and 80 and 20 lower in August. From September 1 to December 31 requirements are from 40 to 160 higher.

Oranges, Valencia. Although additional groves have been lost to urban expansion, production is expected to be higher than in 1955. Fruit is small, however, so it will take pickers longer to fill the boxes. The combination of increased production on the acres to be picked, and a lowered worker output should increase labor requirements for the harvest. The changes will vary by county, however. In Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura counties, a slight increase is expected for the entire harvest period. Orange County expects to use fewer workers at the peak, and will have an earlier peak than in 1955. In San Bernardino and San Diego counties increased labor requirements will occur only in the peak period. The net effect of the changes by county is an increase of 300 and 350 in the number of workers required in July, increases ranging from 300 in late August to 170 in late October, and increases of less than 100 in November and early December. The change in peak period in the largest producing county will increase labor requirements by 670 in early August.

Peaches. A heavy set of fruit is reported. No frost damage has occurred and there is little prospect of future frost damage. Greatest increase in labor requirements will occur in late September for harvest of late varieties. Labor requirements are 70 higher in early July, between 170 and 300 higher from mid-July to mid-September, 430 greater in late September, and 120 larger in early October.

Walnuts. The 1955 production was far below normal because of heat damage. No damage has occurred this year so over-all production is expected to be considerably higher despite loss in acreage of low-producing trees. Labor requirements are 100 higher in late September, 360 and 650 higher in October, and 700 higher in November.

Vineyard tie. Since this work is performed in the wine-grape districts where acreage reduction has occurred, labor requirements are 50 lower in July.

Vegetables. Peak labor requirements for vegetable crops are expected to reach 20,600 in late September, 900 higher than in 1955. Principal production increases are expected in tomatoes, snap beans, carrots, celery, cucumbers, and lettuce. Contributing to the increase in acreage and production of the major vegetable crops listed, is the transfer of crops from miscellaneous vegetables to separate reporting items because expanded production has increased labor requirements in some counties to the extent that the crop activities now qualify as "major". Acreage of miscellaneous vegetables has been reduced accordingly.

Changes in labor requirements vary from almost 500 below to 1,150 above those of 1955. The seemingly erratic changes result from the general practice of replanting as soon as a crop is harvested, from changes in location and seasons of crops, from changes in crops raised, and from the volume of production and number of overlapping crop activities.

Asparagus. Approximately 50 more workers will be needed in early July.

Beans, green lima. Although there is a sizeable increase in acreage and production, the harvest is highly mechanized in most counties so labor requirements will not change greatly. From 20 to 60 more workers will be required from August 1 to October 31.

Beans, snap. Requirements for hand pickers will be about 350 higher in July, 200 higher in August, and from 175 to 50 higher between September 1 and October 31. No changes are anticipated in November and early December.

Broccoli. Because of the long period over which work is performed no large changes are anticipated in labor requirements. Increases range from 30 to 75.

Carrots. Labor requirements are from 100 to 200 higher until September 30, and from 200 to 300 higher in the last three months of the forecast period.

Celery. This will become a major crop in Ventura County for the first time in 1956. San Diego County anticipates a sharp increase in field packing this year. Labor requirements are 750 and 500 higher in July, 450 and 400 higher in August, from 250 to 450 higher between September 1 and December 15, and 180 higher in late December.

Corn, sweet. The harvest continues over a long period of time, so labor requirement increases are moderate--from 50 to 85 until mid-November. Increased plantings in Borrego Valley will be harvested all at once in late November and early December, increasing requirements in these periods by 150 and 80.

Cauliflower. In this year-round crop the minor increase in acreage and production will have little effect on labor requirements.

Cucumbers. The increase is principally in San Diego County where this crop probably will become reportable as "major" in 1956. Labor requirements are 240 higher in July, and from 50 to 150 higher in remaining months of the forecast period.

Lettuce. Practically all of the crop will be dry-packed in 1956. Labor requirements are about 120 higher, on the average.

Melons. In 1955 production was low and the season was late. Assuming normal production and season, labor requirements are expected to be 70 higher than in 1955 until mid-August, after which increases will average about 30.

Onions, dry. This is principally a Los Angeles County crop. An over-all reduction in acreage is anticipated. However, the crop is shifting to desert areas where acreage and production will be slightly higher this year. Labor requirements are from 20 to 80 lower in all periods except for a slight increase of 20-30 in October and early November.

Peppers. Labor requirements are 180 higher in late September and early October, and from 95 to 125 higher from mid-October to the end of November, during the harvest period for Chili peppers.

Potatoes, Irish. Production was below normal in 1955, and market prices and weather conditions were unfavorable. As a result of this experience, acreage and production during the forecast period is expected to be below year-ago levels. Labor requirements are 250 lower in July, 170 and 120 lower in August, about 50 lower in September, and approximately the same as in 1955 during the remainder of the harvest period.

Potatoes, sweet. Labor requirements are 50 higher in October, and approximately 20 higher in the remaining periods of harvest.

Tomatoes. Picking for market will be somewhat heavier in August and in early September than in 1955; and there is expected to be a considerably heavier production for canneries from mid-September to mid-November. Cannery carry-over stocks are low. Labor requirements for harvest of market tomatoes have been raised by 150 and 350 in July, by 560 and 700 in August, and by 580 in early September. Increases estimated for the harvest of cannery tomatoes vary from 900 to 1,000 at the peak between September 16 and November 15. In late November and in December additional volume picked for market is expected to increase labor requirements by 200, 100, and 50.

Vegetables, miscellaneous. Labor requirements have been reduced by an average of 1,200, varying from 850 to 1,750, to allow for crops which will be removed from this category to be reported separately, and for some loss of temporary vegetable acreage in small plots in districts where residential and industrial expansion is occurring.

Field Crops. Labor requirements total almost 1,900 at the July peak in this forecast period. During the remaining months the requirement declines gradually to 50 in early December.

Beans, dry. Labor requirements are not expected to change during the harvest as a whole. However, a shorter peak will reduce labor requirements by 125 in late October.

Grain, small. Larger acreage and higher production will not have a significant effect on the labor requirements during the harvest. Instead, the harvest will be prolonged a few weeks. Labor requirements are approximately 50 higher in early August and early October, and 100-120 higher in late August and September.

Hay, Alfalfa. Although there is a reduction in acreage, production is expected to be higher than in 1955 because the alfalfa aphid which caused so much damage in 1955 has been brought under control this year. Since this crop is so highly mechanized, and of such long duration, there will be little effect on labor requirements, which are from 20 to 70 below those of last year in most periods.

Hay, other. Maturity was delayed by early spring drought, so the start of the harvest was delayed. Labor requirement increases of 50-110 reflect the later harvest period.

Sugar beets. Hoeing usually is complete by August 1. An earlier start this year will drop labor requirements by 30 and 20 in July. Although sugar beets are grown in Santa Barbara County, the harvest activity was not reportable as "major" in 1955. It is expected to be a major activity in 1956, however, because of increased acreage which will raise labor requirements by 30-40 in August, 80 in September and November, and 110 and 120 in October.

All other agriculture. Activities in this category will require approximately 65,300 workers at the peak in early November. Labor requirements average 750 higher than in 1955, ranging from a low of 350 in early August to a high of 1,040 at the peak of planting, and flower and nursery work for the holiday trade.

A percentage breakdown of labor requirement in this category into its component parts is as follows: land preparation and planting, 5 percent; cultivating not included in major activities, 4 percent; irrigating, 14 percent; dairies, 10 percent; livestock, 11 percent; poultry, 26 percent; minor crop harvests, 5 percent; nurseries, greenhouses, flower farms, farm management, repair of fences and machinery, maintenance of ditches, and other miscellaneous farm work, 25 percent.

With expansion occurring in outlying districts, labor requirements for land preparation and planting are expected to be higher. This includes the readying of unused land for agricultural production, and the planting of all crops, both major and minor, except those major vegetable crops which are reported as "plant, cultivate, harvest".

Cultivating is also expected to require more workers. Acreage planted to flowers for local markets is increasing. There is more row-crop activity in the Antelope Valley, including alfalfa for seed, field corn, dry beans, broom corn, and maize. This category excludes hand cultivation which is included in major activities.

Increased acreage planted to row crops requires more irrigators. Additionally there is more overhead sprinkling in the dry farm areas and foothills. More alfalfa is being irrigated in the area of rolling hills where land was not irrigated previously. There is also an increased acreage in irrigated pasture.

Los Angeles County, center of the dairy industry, has lost about 50 small family-operated dairies, but cow population and milk production is up. There is a trend toward fewer but larger dairies with pipeline equipment. Increasing conversion to retail outlets has raised labor requirements to the extent that the increase will approximately offset the reduction in labor requirements caused by loss of small farms, though different types of workers are involved.

Little change is expected in labor requirements for livestock work. There has been a slight gain in beef cattle, hogs, and sheep but not sufficient to affect labor requirements noticeably.

Small family-operated poultry farms are going out of business as the result of zoning and health restrictions. At the same time the larger chicken farms in outlying districts are growing in size. As a result of this change fewer farmers and family workers are involved, but more year-round and seasonal workers are required.

As mentioned previously, there has been a significant increase in the number and acreage involved in nurseries, greenhouses, and flower farms. These farmers are high users of seasonal workers and the labor requirement peaks are staggered.

JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SUPPLY (SEE TABLE II)

I. Trends and Assumptions.

Loss of farm workers to other industries probably will continue to increase during the remaining months of 1956. A steady rise in labor demand for higher-paying nonagricultural industries is anticipated. A downtrend in employment in the auto industry is evident. Aircraft, ordnance and service groups are expected to increase slightly; a moderately-increased labor demand is anticipated in construction; and an expanded need for workers is predicted in trade. At the same time, unemployment in January through March was at the lowest first-quarter level since World War II. In what is expected to be a tight labor market, there will be many opportunities for higher-paying jobs for farm workers. Men with farm backgrounds who are involved in labor disputes seek temporary jobs in some types of agricultural work in this area. Even this source of labor supply is low, however, since there have been few labor disputes this year.

Relocation of agricultural centers also continues to reduce the supply, since workers living in or near metropolitan centers will not move to or commute to remote areas, and the labor supply in the areas in which agricultural expansion is occurring is meager at best.

There is a downward trend in employment of youth and housewives in most crop activities, despite a high degree of grower acceptance of these workers in most crops. As the man of the family transfers to nonagricultural work and economic standards of the family are raised, fewer wives are interested in working. Students in high schools and colleges who must work in vacation periods seek the highest-paying jobs available since earning periods are limited.

Estimates of labor supply (employment) are based on the following assumptions: there will be an increasing loss of temporary farm workers to nonagricultural industries; fewer workers will be available on a temporary basis because of labor disputes in nonagricultural industries; the supply of seasonal farm workers in remote but expanding agricultural areas will be less adequate than in 1955; fewer housewives and students will be available; and because of the high demand and short supply for nonagricultural industries, fewer immigrants will be seeking temporary agricultural work.

II. Employment.

Optimistic estimates place highest employment of domestic farm workers at 85,930 in late July. From then on a gradual decline will occur as harvests in other areas draw both migrant and local workers out of the area. Farm workers seem to like to winter in this part of the State, but prefer northern areas in the summer and fall. Loss of workers may be even greater than in the past, since bumper fruit crops are predicted in the north.

Total employment of domestic workers, including farmers, unpaid family and hired year-round workers, is expected to be about 400 higher than in 1955 during the first half of July, fall slightly below that of a year ago in late July and August, and remain higher in the last four months of the forecast period. Increases vary from 200 in early September to a high of 1,370 in early October.

A summary of reports from field personnel indicates over-all changes in the labor supply as follows: 1,200 more farmers, unpaid family and hired year-round workers, 900 fewer local workers, 300 fewer intrastate migrants, and 300 fewer interstate migrants. The State office has raised these estimates for local, intrastate, and interstate workers. If this modification is incorrect, the need for Mexican Nationals may be higher than is indicated in this report.

Employment by type of worker.

In estimating employment of farmers, unpaid family, and regular workers, allowance was made for the loss of small farms, the increasing size of large farms, the addition of new farms, and the location of new land being brought into agricultural production. Since the need for regular workers will increase, and since this type of work is preferred by most workers, it is assumed that less-skilled seasonal workers will become employed as regular workers. More of these workers will be needed, not only because of expansion, but because the quality of worker is lower and output is not as high as in the past. Employment estimates for farmers, unpaid family, and regular workers are 1,200 higher in July and August, 1,000 higher in September, when students leave the work force, and from 1,000 to 1,300 higher in the last three months when land preparation, planting, and nursery work are at a peak.

Local workers are continuing to find employment in other industries, with an estimated 400-600 loss to agricultural. Those who are still employed in agriculture increasingly are migrating to other areas for fruit harvests in which their families can participate. They leave in July, and start returning in September. Employment estimates are 300 and 400 lower in July, 600 and 500 lower in August, and 400 lower in early September. For late September and early October, estimates have been increased by 200 and 470 respectively on the assumption that local workers will be returning from northern fruit harvests and that a few local women may be induced to participate in the first picking of cannery tomatoes. As tomato picking drops off, some of the local workers will leave the work force, but local family groups will participate in the walnut harvest. Estimates are 350 lower in late October, and 115 and 50 lower in the two November periods. With the completion of the Valencia orange and walnut harvests, local workers customarily withdraw from the labor force, some until the Navel orange harvest begins, and some for the winter. Estimates are 400 lower in December.

It is estimated that approximately 100-300 fewer intrastate-migratory farm workers will be available this year. Additionally, heavy fruit production in home areas is expected to deter additional workers from migrating to this area in July and August. Workers who came to this area during the December 1955 floods are not expected to return this year, since orchard-pruning work will be available at home. Employment estimates are 300 lower in early July and late August, 500 and 540 lower in late July and early August, 200 lower in early September and late December, and from 60 to 150 lower in the remaining periods.

The number of interstate migratory farm workers arriving in California has been below that of a year ago. Employment estimates have been reduced by 100 in October and November, by 200 in December, early July and early September, and by 400 in late July and in August.

Employment by major crop group.

Fruit and nut production is expected to be generally higher this year than last. With higher labor requirements, more housewives and students will be employed. Increased production of strawberries will raise employment during most of the forecast period. More peach pickers will be working in September, and the walnut harvest is expected to attract more workers in the last three months. Employment estimates show little change in early September, late October, and early November. Estimates are 200-500 higher in August, late September, and in December. Increases ranging from 500 to 800 have been assumed in late July, early October, and late November.

Employment in vegetables is expected to be lower than in 1955 during all periods. Because of the reduction in number of family-operated vegetable farms, farmers and families will be fewer. A relocation of larger vegetable farms will result in a loss of temporary seasonal workers. Estimates are 100-200 lower from mid-September to November 30, 300 lower in December, 500-700 lower in early July, late August, and early September, and 1,100-1,200 lower in late July and early August.

Except in remote areas no difficulty is expected in obtaining workers for the mechanized field-crop harvests, since they pay well and represent promotions for vegetable workers in the agricultural-labor picture. Employment changes follow fairly closely the changes in labor requirements, with some allowance for labor shortages in remote districts where there are few farm workers and where few workers care to go. Estimates are 80 and 60 lower in July, 150 higher in late August, 200 higher in September, and between 30 and 65 higher in remaining periods.

"All other agriculture" includes the types of jobs which most farm workers seek, except for irrigating. Many of the workers in this category operate equipment such as tractors and milking machines, and are employed on a regular rather than seasonal basis. In many cases housing is provided, an added incentive for workers to prefer these jobs. On this basis, it is assumed that some men, formerly employed in seasonal vegetable work, will attempt to obtain these jobs and that farmers will be forced to hire them because of the shortage of skilled farm workers. Allowance is also made for an increase in the number of farmers and unpaid family workers who will be included in this category. Employment estimates are from 200 to 500 higher in the first three months, and from 500 to 650 higher in the last three months.

III. Types of Local Workers Which are Expected to be Used.

All available women and youths are expected to be used for summer and fall crop harvests this year. Most areas expect a smaller supply of this type of worker with the exception of San Bernardino County and the desert area of Los Angeles County where substantial population increases will make a greater number of youths and housewives available for particular fruit and vegetable harvests adaptable to this type of worker.

Local temporary workers will be used to the extent that they are available. All counties report that local temporary workers will be in shorter supply.

Older workers from Mexican settlement areas are expected to continue to be available. No other work is available to them and they work in agriculture as long as they are physically able. A number of farmers who have been displaced from their small farms by encroaching suburban development, principally Japanese, are taking work with neighboring growers.

Day-haul workers are expected to be used in larger numbers insofar as available. Greater utilization will be made by increased transfer of these day-haul crews from grower to grower. More field visiting will be done to facilitate a more continuous use of the available workers and crews.

Permanent settlement of migratory workers in some districts such as Perris Valley in Riverside and newly-developed agricultural areas will make available local domestic workers in these areas for the first time.

IV. Origin of Migratory Workers.

Most migratory workers available to the South Coast Area during this July to December period are expected to be intrastate workers. Intrastate potato workers who follow this harvest will come into North Los Angeles County, the Cuyama Valley of Santa Barbara County and into the Perris Valley area following the harvests in Kern County. There is considerable interchange of workers between counties of the South Coast Area as crop harvests terminate in one county and begin in other counties. Lemon pickers return to Orange County for the summer Valencia orange harvest. Grape workers from San Bernardino pick fruit in Littlerock before the grape harvest starts. Mexican families from the San Fernando Valley go to Ventura in September to pick walnuts. There is very little southward migration of intrastate migratory workers until approximately November. At this time summer and fall harvests are also completed in this area. However, fairly large numbers enter flower and nursery work which are just beginning to peak; a few take early winter vegetable work.

Fairly large numbers of interstate migratory workers are used in Los Angeles County and to a lesser extent in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. These workers take agricultural employment only as a temporary expedient and are predominantly interested in industrial employment. A few Texas Mexicans drift in during the summer and are readily placed in summer harvests such as topping dry onions.

V. Recruitment Plans.

All available recruitment methods will be utilized. Day-hauls from Los Angeles County are expected to fill needs during this period in Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. Increased personnel has been planned for stepping up recruitment in the metropolitan area and for facilitating continuous use of day-hauls between ranches. Car pools also operate in conjunction with the day-hauls. A tighter interoffice organization has been set up for interoffice recruitment. Increasing numbers of individual workers are being sent from the Los Angeles Farm Labor Office to all Farm Offices in the South Coast Area. Transfers of crews will be continued to the utmost in line with our policy of utilizing all available locals to the fullest extent. Recruitment publicity both in metropolitan radio stations and newspapers and in local office area radio stations will continuously publicize shortages and labor needs. Special emphasis of this program will

be directed toward recruitment of youth and housewives. U.S.E.S. kit material will be used by local office recruitment programs in local area stores and Mexican settlement areas. Sound-truck equipment will be used in recruiting packing shed labor and for field harvests where sound-truck recruitment gives promise of being effective. Special efforts will be made to consult with and advise growers of housing requirements and possibilities, transportation requirements and needs, and prevailing wage structures in order to maximize the effectiveness of recruitment programs.

ES-229 SOUTH COAST AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SHORTAGE (SEE TABLE III)

1. The number of foreign workers expected to be on hand at the beginning of the period covered by this report: 17,700.
2. Origin of foreign workers to be used: Mexico, principally.
3. Approximately 9,500 foreign workers will be employed beyond December 31.

Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in 1956
and Changes from 1955

Area Number: 10-5-02

Area: SOUTH COAST

Crop and Activity		1955		1956		Change from 1955	
		Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total.....		678,885	***	673,071	***	- 5,814	***
Fruits and Nuts..... Total		236,664	***	227,402	***	- 9,262	***
Apples	harvest.....	585	3,020 T	585	4,050 T	0	+ 1,030 T
Apricots	harvest.....	2,726	15,180 T	2,726	17,450	0	+ 2,270 T
Avocados	harvest.....	11,271	28,292 T	13,250	16,292 T	+ 1,979	- 12,000 T
Berries, bush	harvest.....	300	1,065 T	300	1,080 T	0	+ 15 T
Berries, straw	harvest.....	2,514	22,708 T	3,246	28,835 T	+ 732	+ 6,127 T
Grapefruit	harvest.....	3,321	1,014,950 PB	3,300	1,065,000 PB	- 21	+ 50,050 PB
Grapes	harvest.....	34,238	98,394 T	33,700	98,650 T	- 538	+ 256 T
Lemons	harvest.....	52,562	14,487,557 PB	53,330	15,079,100 T	+ 768	+ 591,543 T
Olives	harvest.....	1,000	800 T	1,000	800 T	0	0
Oranges, Valencia	harvest.....	97,392	21,778,500 PB	89,000	21,778,000 PB	- 8,392	- 500 PB
Peaches	harvest.....	3,510	14,525 T	3,540	18,190 T	+ 30	+ 3,665 T
Pears	harvest.....	420	2,650 T	400	2,500 T	- 20	- 150 T
Walnuts	harvest.....	26,825	12,694 T	23,025	14,482 T	- 3,800	+ 1,788 T
Orchards	prune.....	11,770*	--	11,770*	--	0	0
Vineyards	shovel-sucker-						
	tio.....	27,450*	--	27,000*	--	- 450*	--
Vineyards	prune.....	30,650*	--	30,000*	--	- 650*	--
Vegetables..... Total		139,319	846,648 T	143,569	920,505 T	+ 4,250	+ 73,857 T
Asparagus	harvest.....	360	925 T	400	1,100 T	+ 40	+ 175 T
Beans, green lima	harvest.....	9,109	18,853 T	12,059	26,120 T	+ 2,950	+ 7,267 T
Beans, snap	harvest.....	2,560	14,105 T	2,950	17,117 T	+ 390	+ 3,012 T
Broccoli	thin-harvest..	5,146	15,669 T	6,000	18,000 T	+ 854	+ 2,331 T
Carrots	plt-clt-har..	1,000	22,500 T	1,200	27,000 T	+ 200	+ 4,500 T
Celery	plt-clt-har..	5,600	164,025 T	6,600	186,450 T	+ 1,000	+ 22,425 T
Corn, sweet	harvest.....	2,850	15,060 T	4,050	23,260 T	+ 1,200	+ 8,200 T
Cauliflower	plt-clt-har..	2,355	18,743 T	2,400	21,620 T	+ 45	+ 2,877 T
Cucumbers	harvest.....	400	3,900 T	1,200	11,900 T	+ 800	+ 8,000 T
Lettuce	thin-harvest..	7,128	54,579 T	7,500	63,750 T	+ 372	+ 9,171 T
Melons, Cants., misc.	harvest.....	750	5,140 T	750	5,500 T	0	+ 360 T
Onions, dry	plt-clt-har..	750	17,810 T	600	17,500 T	- 150	- 310 T
Onions, green	plt-clt-har..	1,200	10,800 T	1,200	10,800 T	0	0
Peppers, bell	harvest.....	524	2,725 T	550	2,850 T	+ 26	+ 125 T
Peppers, Chili	harvest.....	3,618	14,045 T	3,750	14,450 T	+ 132	+ 405 T
Potatoes, Irish	cut-seed-pl..	7,300	--	7,000	--	- 300	--
Potatoes, Irish	harvest.....	13,950	201,870 T	12,950	183,113 T	- 1,000	- 18,757 T
Potatoes, sweet	harvest.....	2,380	13,267 T	2,500	14,300 T	+ 120	+ 1,033 T
Tomatoes	plt-clt-har..	16,905	252,632 T	17,950	275,675 T	+ 1,045	+ 23,043 T
Vegetables, misc.	plt-clt-har..	55,434	--	51,960	--	- 3,474	--
Field Crops..... Total		302,902	636,509 T	302,100	673,445 T	- 802	+ 36,936
Beans, dry	harvest.....	63,569	59,450 T	62,850	59,075 T	- 719	- 375
Grain, small	harvest.....	143,600	72,640 T	145,000	74,000 T	+ 1,400	+ 1,360
Hay, Alfalfa	harvest.....	75,305	386,221 T	74,250	417,870 T	- 1,055	+ 31,649
Hay, other	harvest.....	15,500	23,700 T	15,000	22,500 T	- 500	- 1,200
Sugar beets	harvest.....	4,928	94,498 T	5,000	100,000 T	+ 72	+ 5,502

*Excluded from total

T - Ton

PB - Packed box

Table I
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-02

Area: SOUTH COAST

Crop Activity		July		August		September		October		November		December	
		1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirement.....		104,240	104,740	100,920	98,640	98,950	101,960	101,270	99,010	93,465	86,910	83,200	82,660
Fruit and Nuts.....	Total	21,980	21,380	17,680	15,410	14,190	15,710	15,450	14,580	10,280	6,760	5,340	6,250
Apples	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	60	210	230	230	160	60	---
Apricots	harvest.....	3,050	3,100	1,350	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Avocados	harvest.....	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	500	600
Berries, bush	harvest-prune...	1,600	1,050	250	300	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Berries, straw	harvest.....	3,400	3,150	2,720	2,180	1,950	1,460	1,180	820	370	300	100	50
Grapefruit	harvest.....	500	550	550	500	250	100	---	---	---	---	---	---
Grapes	harvest.....	900	900	50	50	750	2,450	2,900	2,800	650	---	---	---
Lemons	harvest.....	4,200	4,000	3,250	2,700	1,450	1,900	1,850	2,100	2,500	3,150	3,900	4,600
Olives	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	100	150	150	150	150	150	100
Oranges, Valencia	harvest.....	7,630	7,880	8,600	8,200	7,980	7,000	5,750	3,680	1,930	1,050	250	---
Peaches	harvest.....	300	400	560	930	1,130	600	120	---	---	---	---	---
Pears	harvest.....	---	---	---	200	70	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Walnuts	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	160	1,690	2,940	4,450	4,100	1,300	---	---
Orchards	prune.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100
Vineyards	tie-prune.....	50	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300	380	800
Vegetables.....	Total	15,940	17,510	17,550	17,470	18,980	20,570	19,860	19,050	17,290	14,740	12,970	11,730
Asparagus	harvest.....	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, green lima	harvest.....	---	---	350	420	540	210	160	40	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap	harvest.....	1,600	1,600	1,450	1,120	800	600	450	400	300	200	150	---
Broccoli	thin-harvest....	120	120	150	150	180	200	220	250	280	280	280	280
Carrots	plant-cult-harv.	250	250	400	400	430	500	550	630	680	750	750	680
Celery	plant-cult-harv.	1,250	950	850	1,400	1,450	1,600	1,580	1,550	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,800
Corn, sweet	harvest.....	270	370	440	470	460	360	280	210	180	130	80	---
Cauliflower	plant-cult-harv.	30	30	30	30	70	80	80	80	130	130	130	130
Cucumbers	harvest.....	260	320	370	410	420	360	300	170	150	150	140	80
Lettuce	thin-harvest....	600	600	600	610	600	540	490	450	330	330	300	100
Melons, Cants, misc.	harvest.....	20	100	200	230	240	200	150	80	30	---	---	---
Onions, dry	plant-cult-harv.	350	300	240	260	350	350	350	260	100	50	---	---
Onions, green	plant-cult-harv.	280	280	280	280	290	300	300	320	360	430	450	450
Peppers	harvest.....	180	180	180	180	180	530	530	1,070	1,150	1,200	1,000	700

Table I - Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity,
July - December 1956

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Vegetables, cont.												
Potatoes, Irish harvest.....	1,650	2,800	2,350	840	380	290	250	50	50	150	150	400
Potatoes, Irish plant.....	--	--	300	240	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Potatoes, sweet harvest.....	--	--	--	--	200	390	510	470	390	200	120	100
Tomatoes plant-cult-harv.	1,150	1,480	2,100	2,600	4,560	6,430	6,250	5,950	5,000	2,670	1,400	750
Vegetables, misc. plant-cult-harv.	7,830	8,130	7,260	7,830	7,830	7,630	7,410	7,070	6,660	6,470	6,420	6,260
Field Crops..... Total	1,880	1,890	1,740	1,580	1,410	1,560	1,310	920	605	280	50	--
Beans, dry harvest.....	--	--	--	--	50	350	380	150	125	50	--	--
Grain, small harvest.....	580	580	450	300	100	100	50	--	--	--	--	--
Hay, Alfalfa harvest.....	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,130	1,080	980	770	650	400	150	50	--
Hay, other harvest.....	150	150	130	110	100	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sugar beets thin-hoe.....	20	30	30	40	80	80	110	120	80	80	--	--
All other agriculture..... Total	64,440	63,960	63,950	64,180	64,370	64,120	64,650	64,460	65,290	65,130	64,840	64,680

Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Workers and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-02

Area: SOUTH COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of expected employment												
Total.....	85,650	85,930	83,290	81,030	79,060	80,400	80,700	80,640	78,685	75,040	72,690	72,920
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired...	64,010	63,880	63,980	63,640	62,600	62,630	62,800	62,690	62,230	62,180	61,350	61,080
Local.....	18,510	18,520	16,840	15,600	14,520	15,610	15,670	14,810	13,745	11,010	9,900	10,330
Intrastate migratory.....	2,300	2,590	1,560	1,150	1,150	1,190	1,200	1,950	1,680	910	680	750
Interstate migratory.....	830	940	910	640	790	970	1,030	1,190	1,030	940	760	760
Section B. Use of expected employment												
Total.....	85,650	85,930	83,290	81,030	79,060	80,400	80,700	80,640	78,685	75,040	72,690	72,920
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	11,430	10,860	7,830	6,710	5,190	6,280	7,130	7,290	5,550	3,130	2,160	2,700
Major Vegetables.....	10,510	11,420	11,930	10,970	10,720	10,760	10,120	10,120	9,540	8,910	8,240	8,060
Major Field Crops.....	1,800	1,810	1,660	1,520	1,350	1,500	1,250	860	605	280	50	--
All other farm work.....	61,910	61,840	61,870	61,830	61,800	61,860	62,200	62,370	62,990	62,720	62,240	62,160
Section C. Preceding year's employment												
Total.....	85,260	86,020	83,630	81,010	78,870	79,440	79,330	80,190	78,000	73,950	72,140	72,540
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired...	62,810	62,670	62,780	62,440	61,600	61,630	61,700	61,690	61,230	60,880	60,050	59,880
Local.....	18,820	18,920	17,440	16,100	14,920	15,410	15,200	15,160	13,860	11,060	10,300	10,750
Intrastate migratory.....	2,600	3,090	2,100	1,450	1,360	1,290	1,300	2,050	1,780	970	830	950
Interstate migratory.....	1,030	1,340	1,310	1,020	990	1,110	1,130	1,290	1,130	1,040	960	960

Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop and Need for Contract Mexican Nationals
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-C2

Area: SOUTH COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	104,240	104,740	100,920	98,640	98,950	101,960	101,270	99,010	93,465	86,910	83,200	82,660
2. Expected employment.....	85,650	85,930	83,290	81,030	79,060	80,400	80,700	80,640	78,685	75,040	72,690	72,920
3. Estimated shortage.....	18,590	18,810	17,630	17,610	19,890	21,560	20,570	18,370	14,780	11,870	10,510	9,740
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	10,550	10,520	9,850	8,700	9,000	9,430	8,320	7,290	4,730	3,630	3,180	3,550
b. Vegetable crops.....	5,430	6,090	5,620	6,500	8,260	9,810	9,740	8,930	7,750	5,830	4,730	3,670
c. Field crops.....	80	80	80	60	60	60	60	60	--	--	--	--
d. All other agriculture.....	2,530	2,120	2,080	2,350	2,570	2,260	2,450	2,090	2,300	2,410	2,600	2,520
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals (1).....	15,651	15,628	14,703	14,585	16,130	17,938	17,421	15,482	12,157	10,120	9,572	8,941
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (1)	620	350	350	650	1,080	1,400	870	315	175	415	300	450

- (1) Represents only those Nationals who were actually working. Excludes those who were ill, on furlough, or awaiting assignment or repatriation.
(2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (SEE TABLE I)

I. Trends.

This area, in addition to being a major fruit producing area, is known as the "Salad Bowl of the Nation" since its principal vegetable crop for many years has been lettuce. It now is becoming known also as the "Berry Basket of California". The growth of the strawberry industry in the past few years has been phenomenal. Within the last two years, plantings have increased so rapidly that it is difficult to keep abreast of the situation. Hillside areas that were thought useless or merely fair pasture land have been ripped up, plowed, and planted to berries. In 1955 the income from strawberries in the Salinas Valley amounted to more than \$9 million. This year, at the same price, income is expected to reach \$14 million. Production has been high, averaging 2,750 crates per acre compared with approximately 1,400 crates average for California as a whole. This expansion, with its attendant problems, is the basic cause of changes in the area.

The number of farms in the area is decreasing, following the general trend in California. There are, however, mixed trends within the area. In counties east of San Francisco Bay, urban expansion, high taxes, high land value, and reduced net farm income is causing owners of small family farms to sell. The principal areas of agricultural land loss are in southern Alameda County, northern and eastern Contra Costa County, San Mateo County and Santa Clara County. The encroachment of industrial and residential expansion has had a striking impact in Santa Clara County, center of apricot and prune production. The first losses were to subdivisions in foothill districts. In the past two years, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Lockheed, General Electric, and International Business Machines have built or are building large plants on the floor of this fertile valley, and residential building is expanding rapidly on the west side of the valley. At the same time many small strawberry farms are being started in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, and the larger well established farms are expanding. It is not uncommon to see new strawberry fields with new fruit trees set amid the berries, anticipating the time when the saturation point has been reached in strawberry production.

Land which has been dry farmed or entirely out of production in the past is gradually being brought under irrigation and converted from field crops and pastureland to row crops. This is particularly the case in San Benito County, in the Los Osos and Atascadero districts of San Luis Obispo County, in the Pescadero and Half Moon Bay districts of San Mateo County, and in the vicinity of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County.

There is a definite trend toward a higher degree of mechanization in all crops where mechanization will reduce the need for hand labor. Included are cucumber picking machines, walnut tree shakers, lettuce and celery packing machines, pole setting and string tying machines for string beans, mechanical planters for strawberries and celery, and mechanical sugar beet thinners. Use of these machines is limited at present, but is expected to expand as farms grow in size. There has been little mechanization in fruit harvests except for apricot cutting, which has been performed principally by local housewives and wives of migrant pickers.

New packing and freezing plants are being built in the area. For example, work is scheduled to start immediately on a \$500,000 produce shipping center in southern Alameda County. This plant is expected to be the largest and most modern of its type in the nation - a center which may soon handle \$10 million worth of fruit and vegetables a year. Three \$100,000 vacuum tubes 27 feet long will be installed, the latest scientific development for cooling vegetables fresh from the fields in 27 minutes. These vegetables then will be shipped to market in refrigerated cars. This process, which reportedly prolongs flavor and freshness of produce at least ten days, will be highly mechanized.

II. Assumptions.

Industrial and residential expansion probably will continue at about the same rate as in 1955. As a result, agricultural land will be farmed more intensively, with an expansion in the practice of multiple cropping. It is assumed that mechanization will spread slightly, but not sufficiently to have a marked effect on labor requirements. Weather has been favorable for growth of both fruit and vegetables, and high yield per acre is anticipated.

III. Labor Requirements.

Estimates of labor requirements are based on acreage and production as shown in the tabulation preceding Table I. Labor will be required to perform work on approximately 767,000 acres, about 16,000 more than in 1955. Crops with larger acreages which will have the greatest effect on labor requirements include strawberries, green lima beans, Brussels sprouts, and tomatoes. Increased labor requirements for these high-labor-using crops, however, will be partially offset by reduced acreages in artichokes, garlic, and lettuce, and lower production in apricots.

During July labor requirements increase sharply to the early August peak when approximately 99,400 workers are needed. The decline from the peak is small in late August and in early September, after which requirements drop rapidly until December.

Fruit and Nuts. Approximately 38,300 workers will be required at the peak in early August, after which the number of workers needed will decline gradually until mid-November. Labor requirements are 3,000 higher than last year in July, 1,200 and 4,300 higher in the two August periods, 4,300 and 4,800 higher in September, 2,800 and 2,100 higher in October, and from 1,800 higher in early November to 400 higher in late December. The increases are caused primarily by increased acreage in strawberries and higher production in prunes.

Almonds. The start of the harvest was delayed in 1955. Prospects for 1956 indicate a normal starting time which will raise requirements by 260 in late August. A faster drop from the peak and a more gradual tapering off of harvest activities are expected to lower labor requirements by 160 in late October, and raise requirements by 160 in early November. No change is anticipated in other periods.

Apricots. Lower production and an earlier start will reduce harvest requirements by 1,200 and 1,700 in the two July periods, and by 3,000 in early August. With an increased proportion of the crop destined for dry yards, requirements will be slightly higher in late August.

Berries, bush. A slight increase in yield in late berries is expected to increase labor requirements by 50 in July and 100 in August.

Berries, straw. With yearly acreage increases, cultural work has now become a major activity which is carried on most of the year. The growth of cultural employment in strawberries necessitated a transfer of the activity from "all other agriculture" to independent status as a major crop activity. This transfer occurred early in December 1955, reducing the "all other agriculture" figures thereafter by the amount of cultural employment in strawberries. Consequently, historical data are not available for comparison with increases in labor requirements during the forecast period. In July increases amount to 1,800 and 1,640. The August increases are 1,440 and 840. From early September to the end of December increases shrink gradually from 840 to 150.

The first picking usually is completed in mid-June, after which a short lull occurs until the second crop is ready for picking in July. Between the two harvests, runners are cut, plants are hoed, and fields are irrigated. The second picking is quite heavy, frequently heavier than in the first crop, but following picks are progressively lighter. Labor requirements are between 2,000 and 2,500 higher than in 1955 in early July, late August, and in September. In late July and early August they are 3,000 higher. Approximately 1,600 and 1,100 more pickers will be required in October, and 750 and 400 in November.

Peaches. An expected earlier start will increase labor requirements by 50 in late July and by 20 in early August.

Pears. Labor requirements are 400 and 240 lower in August, and 100 lower in early September.

Prunes. A bumper crop is anticipated this year. Labor requirements are 900 higher in late August, 1,000 and 2,000 higher in September, and 350 higher in early October.

Walnuts. Labor requirements are 100 and 400 higher in October, and 340 and 50 higher in November.

Orchards. Pruning will require about 30 more workers between October 1 and December 15, and 185 more in late December. In December 1955 pruning was stopped by floods in many orchards.

Vineyards. In late December approximately 100 more workers will be needed than in 1955 when floods stopped operations in some vineyards.

Vegetables. Because of snap bean and lettuce harvests labor requirements build up to the first peak of 24,700 in late August. They then decline slightly in September. The second peak is caused by overlapping peaks of tomato picking and miscellaneous vegetable work and occurs in early October when 25,150 workers are required. From mid-October to December 31, labor requirements decline gradually from 23,800 to 11,300.

Artichokes. A considerable amount of artichoke acreage was lost in the 1955 floods, and a scarcity of plants early in the season delayed replanting. Some of the land was replanted to Brussels sprouts, and planting of artichokes is still continuing. Estimates of acreage and production, under the circumstances, are subject to considerable change. For purposes of estimating labor requirements, however, it is assumed that fewer workers will be needed early in the long harvest season, and that late plantings will require more workers later in the season. Labor requirements are 50 lower in October and early November, the same as in 1955 in late November, and 40 and 90 higher in December. The late December increase also allows for flood conditions hampering work in 1955.

Beans, green lima. Labor requirements are 100 higher during September and October.

Beans, snap. Lower acreage in Alameda County will reduce labor requirements by 110 in early July. Increased production in other counties, in which the harvest starts somewhat later than in Alameda County, will raise labor requirements for all periods from July 16 to October 31. Increases range from a low of 300 in October to a high of 600 in late August and early September.

Broccoli. Labor requirements are 60 higher in late July, and about the same as in 1955 during the remaining periods of activity.

Brussels sprouts. Increases average 300, ranging from 150 in late August to 500 in late December. A longer peak period is anticipated since the harvest was interrupted by 1955 floods. Increases of more than 300 are anticipated in November and December, while increases of less than 300 are estimated from mid-August to mid-October.

Carrots. The small increase in production will not have a noticeable effect on labor requirements in any period except late November when it is estimated that 50 more workers will be required.

Celery. An earlier peak is expected. Labor requirements are 100 higher in late July, late October, and early November; approximately 250 higher in August and early September, 150 higher in late September, and 120 higher in early October. No change is anticipated in remaining periods of activity.

Cucumbers. From 25 to 35 fewer workers will be required in July, August, and in early September.

Corn, sweet. Labor requirements have been reduced by 100 in July and by 50 in early August.

Garlic. Reduced production will be reflected in a flatter peak. Labor requirements have been lowered by 100 in late July and in the two August periods.

Lettuce. Planting was delayed this year, so the decline from the peak is expected to be more gradual. An increase of 430 in labor requirements in early November is an allowance for the later season. From July 1 to October 31 from 55 to 160 fewer workers will be required.

Melons. No appreciable difference is expected in labor requirements.

Potatoes. No significant changes are anticipated in labor requirements.

Tomatoes. Higher production is expected both in market and canning varieties. Labor requirements for harvest of market tomatoes are 300 higher in late August and 900 higher in early September. For the canning tomato harvest 1,200 more pickers will be required in late September, 2,000 and 1,500 more in October, and 600 and 500 more will be needed in November.

Vegetables, miscellaneous. Labor requirements range from 100 to 200 higher. Largest increases are expected to occur in September, October, and early November.

Field Crops. Except for the sugar beet harvest, all field crop harvests are declining during this six-month period. Labor requirements taper off gradually from 2,000 in early July to 1,130 in late August, drop to 650 in early September and remain between 600 and 880 until mid-November after which few workers are needed.

Beans, dry. An earlier season will reduce labor requirements for hoeing by 100 in late September, and raise the number of workers needed for the harvest by 50 in the same period.

Grain, small. Reduction in acreage will have little effect on labor requirements for this highly mechanized harvest.

Hay. Significantly increased acreage is expected to increase labor requirements only slightly during the major part of the harvest. The decline from the peak, however, is expected to be more gradual. Labor requirements are 45 higher in early July, 70 higher in late July, 110 greater in early August, 80 higher in late August, and the same as in 1955 for the remainder of the harvest period.

Sugar beets. Approximately 50 more workers will be required for hoeing in July, and for the harvest from mid-August to early November.

All other agriculture. Labor requirements average 38,900 for the July-December forecast period. A percentage breakdown of the total is roughly as follows: Land preparation and planting, dairies, and minor crop harvests each 7 percent; cultivating 11 percent; irrigating 13 percent; livestock 14 percent; poultry 15 percent; and all other miscellaneous farm work 26 percent.

Labor requirements are 830 and 630 lower than in 1955 during July, from 400 to 500 lower in August and September, from 200 to 300 lower in October, November, and early December, and 130 lower in late December. Most of the decrease represents the removal of strawberry cultural activities from this category to the "Major" group. Over-all changes in activities included are insignificant, since reduced need for irrigators, planters, and cultivators in counties of declining farm acreage are offset by greater need for these workers in counties where expansion is occurring.

ES-229 CENTRAL COAST AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SUPPLY (SEE TABLE II)

I. Trends.

Transfer of farm workers to nonagricultural work continues in this area. In the San Francisco Labor Market Area unemployment in March 1956 was 23 percent below that of March 1955 while employment was three percent higher. In the San Jose Labor Market Area unemployment in March 1956 was 17 percent below that of March 1955 while employment was nine percent higher.

With a tight nonagricultural labor market existing, transfer of farm workers can be expected to increase, and labor shortages in agriculture probably will also increase. Housewives customarily have entered the farm labor force in Santa Clara County for harvests of apricots, prunes, cherries, and walnuts. Immigration of workers from other California areas and other States was smaller this spring than last.

While farm workers are being lost in counties close to industrial centers, more domestic workers are entering the work force for strawberry picking in the vicinity of Watsonville and Salinas.

II. Assumptions.

It is assumed that a tight nonagricultural labor market will prevail in this area during the forecast period, and that general economic conditions in other States will maintain a high level through the balance of the year. To date no reports have been received to indicate severe crop loss in other states, so it is assumed that none will occur which would bring to California an unexpected supply of labor.

Summaries of field personnel indicate a reduction in the expected labor supply of 1,850 to 2,350 during the July-December 1956 forecast period. These totals are broken down by type of worker as follows: Farmers and family - 175; year-round - 225; local workers - 250 to 750; intrastate migrants - 800; and interstate migrants - 400.

Field estimates of shrinkage have been reduced in Central Office. Although it is certain that the labor supply will be inadequate, the degree of inadequacy is difficult to determine when so much reliance is placed on large numbers of migratory workers and new entrants to the labor force.

III. Employment.

Estimates for 1955 have been revised downward in amounts ranging from 2,400 to 7,400 in all half-month periods. The revisions affect employment estimates for farmers, unpaid family, and hired year-round workers in "all other agriculture". Estimates of employment in the forecast period are based on the revised estimates for 1955.

Total employment estimates are about 200 below those of 1955 during July and August, on the assumption that news of a smaller apricot crop will reduce the number of seasonal workers available during the period of the harvest. Estimates were raised from 30 to 350 in the remaining periods because strawberries

are attracting domestic workers now, and it is assumed that higher production of prunes and tomatoes will bring more labor into the area.

Employment by type of worker.

Estimates for farmers, unpaid family, and hired year-round workers are 20 higher in November, and 30 and 60 higher in the two December periods. Further expansion of strawberry acreage is anticipated, so allowance has been made for the establishment of a few more new farms at planting time. Additional adjustment has been made in late December for more pruning operations than were possible during the December 1955 floods.

For local workers it is assumed that the increase in coastal strawberry counties will approximately offset losses in the metropolitan centers. Changes reflect the decrease or increase in new entrants to the labor force as a result of crop conditions. Estimates are 50 lower in July and August during the apricot harvest. The prune harvest is expected to increase employment by 30 and 80 in September, and by 50 in early October. Strawberry work, the walnut harvest, and heavier orchard pruning probably will increase employment by 30 in late October and early November, by 50 in late November, and by approximately 65 in December.

About 120 fewer intrastate migrants are expected to be available because of the smaller apricot harvest in July and August. Employment estimates have been increased by 60 and 190 in September and by 40 in early October, since higher production of tomatoes and prunes is expected to attract more family groups. From mid-October to the end of December no change is expected in the supply of intrastate migrant farm workers.

As with other types of workers, fewer migrants are expected to be available for the apricot harvest, while more may seek employment in the prune harvest. Estimates are about 65 lower in July, 100 and 30 lower in August, 30 and 80 higher in September, and 20 higher in early October than in 1955.

Employment by major crop group.

Fruit and Nuts. The addition of strawberry cultural activities to the fruit and nut group of major activities, the anticipated lower employment in the apricot harvest, and slightly higher employment of domestic workers in the prune harvest will have the net effect of increasing employment estimates by amounts ranging from a low of 120 in early August to a high of 820 in early September.

Vegetables. No change is expected in July and August, and from mid-October until the end of December. Estimates have been raised 70 and 130 in September and 220 in early October for higher employment in tomato picking.

Field Crops. No change is anticipated.

All other agriculture. Decreases gradually declining from 840 in early July to approximately 300 were allowed for the removal of strawberry cultural work.

IV. Types of local workers which are expected to be used.

Local workers used will include regular seasonal farm workers as well as housewives, school children and temporarily unemployed industrial workers.

Efforts will also continue to increase greater utilization of day-haul, both on a local basis and from supply centers such as San Francisco and Oakland.

Year-round farm workers and farmers and their families also constitute a good portion of the local labor force.

V. Origin of migratory workers.

Southwestern states, including Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, have always contributed a large percentage of the migratory work force in the Central Coast Area. Many of these workers come into this area for the fruit harvests returning year after year to the same employer. With the large increase in labor requirements in this area, it is hoped that this work force will return as in past years. The number of new entrants from these States is a matter of conjecture only and will be controlled to some extent by the availability of family type housing. San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley, Southern California, and Imperial Valley have always contributed to the labor supply and this practice is also expected to continue.

VI. Recruitment plans.

As in the past, recruitment plans include use of newspapers including wire releases, radio spot announcements, and public address systems and maximum use of school children and day-haul operations.

Most schools in the area have been contacted and notices posted encouraging youth to sign up for summer farm jobs. Response has been heavy in strawberry areas although workers responding have so far stayed on jobs for only short periods.

It is also planned to use minority groups where possible although in the past seasons this source of labor has proven very unreliable for all but very short crops due to the distances involved in day-hauling these workers into the area.

As in the past, clearance efforts will be utilized wherever possible although in past seasons direct clearance has been ineffective due to the general shortage throughout the State during periods of high labor need.

Initial plans are now under way to recruit family groups for prune growers and men for one large co-op dehydrating firm in Santa Clara County through positive recruitment in New Mexico, Arizona or Texas. Initial inquiry has also been made as to the availability of Indian men for the dehydrating firm. This type of program will be expanded if these initial efforts prove successful.

It is impossible to estimate the number of workers expected to be obtained through each device or source discussed above; however, efforts to develop additional methods of recruitment and to tap labor supply pools will continue.

Switching of crews between employers has been a major program in this area for some time and will continue as time permits. This system has increased utilization of the labor supply and has provided steadier employment for farm workers. Where a crop lends itself to this type of operation, growers and crews are contacted in advance of the activity, and contact is maintained constantly throughout the work period to rotate crews between growers.

Farm Placement personnel are in constant touch with farm organizations such as Advisory Committee members, County Agricultural Commissioners, farm commodity groups, and other groups which are able to assist in providing technical assistance or advice on labor supply problems. In the past these agencies have been helpful in providing labor market information and their assistance is expected to continue.

V. Origin of migratory workers.

Southwestern states, including Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, have always contributed a large percentage of the migratory work force in the Central Coast Area. Many of these workers come into this area for the first time in returning years after year to the same employer. With the large increase in labor requirements in this area, it is hoped that this work force will return as in past years. The number of new entrants from these states is a matter of conjecture only and will be controlled to some extent by the availability of family type housing. San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley, Southern California, and Imperial Valley have always contributed to the labor supply and this practice is also expected to continue.

VI. Recruitment plans.

As in the past, recruitment plans include use of newspapers including wire releases, radio spot announcements, and public address systems and sections use of school children and day-labor operations.

Most schools in the area have been contacted and notices posted encouraging youth to sign up for summer farm jobs. Response has been heavy in elementary areas although workers responding have so far stayed on jobs for only short periods.

It is also planned to use minority groups where possible although in the past because this source of labor has proven very unreliable for all but very short crops due to the distances involved in day-hauling these workers into the area.

As in the past, clearance efforts will be utilized whenever possible although in past seasons direct clearance has been ineffective due to the general shortage throughout the State during periods of high labor need.

Initial plans are now under way to recruit family groups for grape growers and now for one large co-op dehydrating firm in Santa Clara County through positive recruitment in New Mexico, Arizona or Texas. Initial inquiry has also been made as to the availability of Indians for the dehydrating firm. This type of program will be continued if these initial efforts prove successful.

It is impossible to estimate the number of workers expected to be obtained through such device or source discussed above; however, efforts to develop additional methods of recruitment and to the labor supply pools will continue.

Outlining of areas between employers has been a major program in this area for some time and will continue as this practice. This system has increased utilization of the labor supply and has provided additional employment for farm workers. There is now a need to this type of operation, growers and areas are contacted in advance of the activity, and contact is maintained constantly throughout the work period to relate areas between growers.

ES-229 CENTRAL COAST AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SHORTAGE (SEE TABLE III)

In the last six months of 1955 peak employment of Mexican Nationals was 11,922 in early October. The over-all shortage, however, reached a high point of 12,940 in late September, since unmet shortages were prevalent during the entire six months.

For the 1956 forecast period, the labor shortage is expected to peak at 19,200 in late September despite conservative estimates both for labor requirements and for labor supply. The increased need for Mexican Nationals results almost entirely from higher labor requirements.

1. The number of Mexican Nationals expected to be employed in the area on July 1 is 13,800.
2. Approximately 1,800 Mexican Nationals probably will be used beyond this forecast period. Use will extend until March.
3. The peak need for Mexican Nationals is expected to occur approximately two weeks earlier this year than last because of the generally earlier season.

Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in 1956
and Changes from 1955

Area Number: 10-5-03

Area: CENTRAL COAST

Crop and Activity		1955		1956		Change from 1955	
		Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total		751,000	***	766,945	***	+15,945	***
Fruit and Nuts.....Total		165,696	***	169,725	***	+ 4,029	***
Almonds	harvest.....	14,750	4,560 T	14,600	4,575 T	- 150	+ 15 T
Apples	harvest.....	9,200	90,700 T	9,200	90,700 T	--	--
Apriocots	harvest.....	25,369	167,198 T	23,799	125,868 T	- 1,570	- 41,330 T
Berries, Bush	harvest.....	815	3,135 T	815	3,155 T	--	--
Berries, Straw.	prune-hoe.....	6,526	--	9,460	--	+ 2,934	--
Berries, Straw.	harvest.....	9,103	91,752 T	12,340	136,550 T	+ 3,237	+ 44,798 T
Cherries	harvest.....	3,720	16,644 T	3,710	16,650 T	- 10	+ 6 T
Grapes	harvest.....	10,648	16,420 T	10,548	16,420 T	- 100	--
Peaches	harvest.....	900	3,600 T	900	3,600 T	--	--
Pears	harvest.....	10,005	103,405 T	9,872	102,470 T	- 133	- 935 T
Plums	harvest.....	402	1,960 T	402	1,960 T	--	--
Prunes	harvest.....	41,549	185,850 T	41,244	204,600 T	- 305	+ 18,750 T
Walnuts	harvest.....	32,709	16,787 T	32,835	17,708 T	+ 126	+ 921 T
		125,987*		126,437*		+ 450*	
Orchards	prune.....	118,839*	--	119,289*	--	+ 450*	--
Vineyards	prune.....	7,148*	--	7,148*	--	--	--
Vegetables.....Total		184,971	1,478,112	186,066	1,466,504	+ 1,095	- 11,608
Artichokes	harvest.....	7,260	17,200 T	6,500	15,500 T	- 760	- 1,700 T
Beans, Green Lima	harvest.....	4,720	7,602 T	5,700	9,500 T	+ 980	+ 1,898 T
Beans, Snap	harvest.....	2,835	20,295 T	3,120	24,200 T	+ 285	+ 3,905 T
Broccoli	pl.-cult.-harv.	13,214	34,260 T	13,200	34,380 T	- 14	+ 120 T
Brussels sprouts	harvest.....	3,790	17,300 T	4,800	24,000 T	+ 1,010	+ 6,700 T
Carrots	harvest.....	8,970	110,167 T	9,000	110,500 T	+ 30	+ 333 T
Celery	pl.-cult.-harv.	5,312	165,496 T	5,790	174,700 T	+ 478	+ 9,204 T
Cucumber	harvest.....	2,036	18,924 T	2,000	18,600 T	- 36	- 324 T
Cauliflower	cult.-harvest..	3,502	38,522 T	3,502	38,522 T	--	--
Corn, Sweet	harvest.....	1,250	6,565 T	750	3,950 T	- 500	- 2,615 T
Garlic	harvest.....	1,914	7,465 T	1,579	6,500 T	- 335	- 965 T
Lettuce	thin-hoe-harv..	80,656	703,840 T	76,400	612,671 T	- 4,256	- 91,169 T
Melons, Cants and Others	harvest.....	500	5,000 T	400	4,000 T	- 100	- 1,000 T
Onions, Dry	harvest.....	1,330	23,275 T	1,330	23,275 T	--	--
Potatoes	harvest.....	1,700	16,150 T	2,000	20,000 T	+ 300	+ 3,850 T
Tomatoes	harvest.....	16,337	281,245 T	19,400	341,400 T	+ 3,063	+ 60,155 T
Vegetables, Misc.	pl.-cult.-harv.	29,645	4,806 T	30,595	4,806 T	+ 950	--
Field Crops.....Total		400,333	***	411,154	***	+10,821	***
Beans, Dry	harvest.....	33,375	33,268 T	33,375	33,268 T	--	--
Grain, Small	harvest.....	234,100	143,213 T	231,700	116,148 T	- 2,400	- 27,065 T
Hay, Alfalfa and Others	harvest.....	107,803	241,553 T	119,200	278,140 T	+11,397	+ 36,587 T
Sugar Beets	harvest.....	21,706	157,324 T	23,279	483,509 T	+ 1,573	+326,185 T
Sugar Beets	thin-hoe.....	3,349	64,720 T	3,600	72,000 T	+ 251	+ 7,280 T

*Excluded from totals.

Table I
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-03

Area: CENTRAL COAST

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirements.....	81,950	96,640	99,380	96,020	96,510	86,220	82,940	79,390	70,120	57,060	54,130	54,410
Fruit and Nuts..... Total	26,020	37,270	38,340	31,870	33,730	23,220	18,580	15,580	11,420	4,630	4,000	5,000
Almonds harvest.....	--	--	--	400	1,070	1,080	1,090	490	260	40	30	--
Apples harvest.....	--	--	--	500	1,200	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,100	150	--	--
Apricots harvest.....	10,700	20,600	20,600	200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Berries, bush harvest.....	1,650	1,650	700	150	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Berries, straw plant-prune-hoe....	1,800	1,640	1,440	840	840	740	740	680	600	400	600	800
Berries, straw harvest.....	11,680	12,730	12,880	13,170	12,110	10,100	7,700	6,060	3,250	1,240	--	--
Cherries harvest.....	90	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grapes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	50	200	1,400	1,050	600	150	--	--
Peaches harvest.....	--	300	370	150	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pears harvest.....	--	--	2,250	3,660	1,460	700	500	120	--	--	--	--
Plums harvest.....	100	350	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prunes harvest.....	--	--	--	12,800	17,000	7,800	500	--	--	--	--	--
Walnuts harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	1,100	3,100	3,600	2,630	100	--	--
Orchards prune.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,050	1,080	1,980	2,550	3,370	4,000
Vineyards prune.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	200
Vegetables..... Total	14,350	18,140	19,970	24,690	22,840	23,600	25,160	23,790	18,920	13,580	11,550	11,290
Artichokes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	100	100	100	150	370	550	720	720
Beans, gr. Lima harvest.....	--	--	--	--	600	600	600	200	--	--	--	--
Beans, snap harvest.....	700	4,250	4,500	6,800	2,000	1,800	800	550	100	40	--	--
Broccoli plant-cult-harv....	110	120	70	80	190	190	190	260	370	590	650	600
Brussels sprouts harvest.....	--	--	--	750	1,550	1,600	1,700	2,000	2,050	2,150	2,150	2,000
Carrots harvest.....	1,200	1,000	1,000	800	800	700	600	700	800	800	800	800
Celery plant-cult-harv....	430	520	910	960	1,130	1,130	1,100	1,050	1,040	940	670	550
Cucumbers harvest.....	700	1,120	1,500	1,320	640	450	100	--	--	--	--	--
Cauliflower cult-cut-pack.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	100	130	160
Corn, sweet harvest.....	150	150	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Garlic harvest.....	200	600	930	850	150	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
Garlic plant (1956-57)....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	200	500
Lettuce thin-hoe-harv.....	5,150	4,650	5,000	5,720	5,250	5,000	4,700	4,400	3,100	660	60	60
Melons,cants&misc. harvest.....	--	--	100	250	150	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
Onions, dry harvest.....	--	--	--	--	300	300	300	150	--	--	--	--
Potatoes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	100	150	250	200	150	100	--
Tomatoes pick-pack.....	--	--	--	1,200	3,650	6,000	8,250	7,630	4,500	1,450	--	--
Vegetables, misc. plant-cult-harv....	5,710	5,730	5,860	5,960	6,330	5,430	6,570	6,450	6,390	6,150	6,070	5,900

Table I -- Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Field Crops..... Total	2,000	1,820	1,550	1,130	670	640	830	880	600	50	50	--
Beans, dry weed-hoe.....	400	400	400	200	100	50	--	--	--	--	--	--
Beans, dry harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	50	250	300	200	--	--	--
Grain, small harvest.....	450	500	500	360	70	40	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hay harvest.....	1,000	770	650	320	100	100	100	100	100	50	50	--
Sugar beets thin-hoe.....	150	150	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sugar beets harvest.....	--	--	--	250	400	400	480	480	300	--	--	--
All other agriculture..... Total	39,580	39,410	39,520	38,330	39,270	38,760	38,370	39,140	39,180	38,800	38,530	38,120

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Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Worker and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-03

Area: CENTRAL COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of expected employment												
Total.....	67,920	82,540	85,230	78,470	78,410	67,010	65,500	63,810	58,970	51,140	50,410	51,280
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired.....	40,610	41,650	41,080	41,390	41,160	39,370	39,570	39,270	38,380	36,170	35,880	35,960
Local.....	18,120	26,690	28,080	23,320	22,530	18,210	18,240	17,900	16,110	11,910	11,660	12,270
Intrastate migratory.....	6,190	11,390	12,710	9,210	10,020	7,380	6,350	6,030	4,020	2,790	2,660	2,790
Interstate migratory.....	3,000	2,810	3,360	4,550	4,700	2,050	1,340	610	460	270	210	260
Section B. Use of expected employment												
Total.....	67,920	82,540	85,230	78,470	78,410	67,010	65,500	63,810	58,970	51,140	50,410	51,280
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	19,340	31,620	33,010	25,640	27,940	17,080	14,290	12,320	9,070	3,580	3,700	4,700
Major Vegetables.....	7,440	10,320	11,760	13,620	10,630	10,850	12,060	11,620	10,140	8,880	8,250	8,490
Major Field Crops.....	1,730	1,450	1,240	920	570	590	780	830	580	50	50	--
All other farm work.....	39,410	39,150	39,220	38,290	39,270	38,490	38,370	39,040	39,180	38,630	38,410	38,090
Section C. Preceding year's employment												
Total.....	68,130	82,780	85,500	78,560	78,290	66,660	65,390	63,780	58,920	51,070	50,320	51,150
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired.....	40,610	41,650	41,080	41,390	41,160	39,370	39,570	39,270	38,360	36,150	35,850	35,900
Local.....	18,170	26,740	28,130	23,340	22,500	18,130	18,190	17,870	16,080	11,860	11,600	12,200
Intrastate migratory.....	6,290	11,510	12,830	9,250	9,960	7,190	6,310	6,030	4,020	2,790	2,660	2,790
Interstate migratory.....	3,060	2,880	3,460	4,580	4,670	1,970	1,320	610	460	270	210	260

Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop and
Need for Contract Mexican Nationals
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-03

Area: CENTRAL COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	81,950	96,640	99,380	96,020	96,510	86,220	82,940	79,390	70,120	57,060	54,130	54,410
2. Expected employment.....	67,920	82,540	85,230	78,470	78,410	67,010	65,500	63,810	58,970	51,140	50,410	51,280
3. Estimated shortage.....	14,030	14,100	14,150	17,550	18,100	19,210	17,440	15,580	11,150	5,920	3,720	3,130
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	6,680	5,650	5,330	6,230	5,790	6,140	4,290	3,260	2,350	1,050	300	300
b. Vegetable crops.....	6,910	7,820	8,210	11,070	12,210	12,750	13,100	12,170	8,780	4,700	3,300	2,800
c. Field crops.....	270	370	310	210	100	50	50	50	20	--	--	--
d. All other agriculture.....	170	260	300	40	--	270	--	100	--	170	120	30
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals (1).....	9,225	9,569	10,240	11,704	11,193	11,661	11,922	10,905	7,850	4,037	3,002	2,342
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (2)	2,450	1,500	2,160	955	1,620	1,280	820	460	495	175	135	160

(1) Includes only those Mexican Nationals who were actually working. Excludes those who were ill, on furlough, or who were awaiting assignment or repatriation.

(2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

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ES-229 NORTH COAST AREA
July-December 1956

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (SEE TABLE I)

I. Trends.

There is a rising trend toward higher production of fruit and nuts per acre. This is being brought about by increased fertilization and better knowledge of its application, better disease control by application of sprays and dust, and better farming methods. Young men, trained in agricultural colleges, are assuming management of their fathers' farms, and are using information concerning latest methods given them by various farm agencies.

Residential expansion is taking some farm land in the vicinity of Santa Rosa, Ukiah, Napa, and St. Helena; however, this loss totalled only 350 acres in 1955. At the same time, approximately 4,000 acres have been planted to walnuts in Lake County and some 4,000 acres more are expected to be developed in 1956-1957.

Market demand and price for hops give little indication of improving. In the past few years growers have planted vegetables under the hop trellises, between rows of hop plants. Now the growers are removing trellises and are reworking the land for vegetables, strawberries and other fruits. Demand for fresh vegetables is high in the San Francisco market, and a continued gradual expansion of vegetable production in this area is anticipated.

There has been little increase in mechanization in this area, but rather constant improvement of machines already in use. The improvement is particularly noticeable in orchard pruning machines and in walnut harvesting machines.

II. Assumptions.

In 1955 warm weather was late in arriving, consequently some harvests began later than usual or started very slowly. The early spring this year should permit normal harvest patterns. To date there has been no frost damage as occurred in 1955, and the set of fruit is heavy. Higher yield is expected in all fruit except apples. Estimates assume continued expansion of vegetable plantings and preparation of new land for agriculture, and no change in harvesting methods.

III. Labor Requirements.

Estimates of labor requirements are based on acreage and production as shown in the summary table preceding Table I. Labor requirements are higher in all periods than in 1955, in amounts ranging from 85 in late November and early December to 900 in late September. The increases are caused principally by higher production in fruit and larger plantings of vegetables. Strawberry picking has become a major activity for the first time.

Fruit and Nuts. Earlier conclusion of the prune harvest is expected to decrease labor requirements by about 100 in early October. In other periods, increases from 1955 vary from less than 100 in late July, early October, late November, and early December to a high of 650 in late August when the pear picking is at a peak and the prune harvest is building up rapidly.

Apples. Approximately 50 fewer workers for the harvest, from mid-July to the end of October.

Berries, bush. This harvest will require 50 more workers in July. An expected lengthening of the harvest period will raise requirement by 300 in early August.

Berries, straw. The 15 acres in 1955 were included in "all other agriculture". Labor requirements are 150 and 50 higher in the two July periods.

Grapes. Approximately 50 more workers will be needed in October.

Pears. Labor requirements are 100 higher in early August, and about 300 higher in late August and early September.

Prunes. Harvest is expected to start 7-10 days earlier than in 1955. This will increase labor requirements by 70 in early August, and decrease the number of workers needed by 95 in early October. During the harvest peak labor requirements will be 400 higher in late August, and about 200 higher in September.

Walnuts. Reported as major by only one county in 1955. The harvest will be major in two counties in 1956, which will raise labor requirements by about 200 in late October and early November, and by 50 in late November.

Orchard and vineyard pruning. Heavy rain in late November and floods in December kept pruning activities below the usual level for these months. On this basis, and assuming more favorable weather in 1956, labor requirements have been increased as follows: Orchards, 35 in late November and 45 and 50 in the two December periods; vineyards, 40 and 70 in the two December periods.

Vegetables. With increased acreage of high labor using crops, labor requirements are 50 higher in late July and late October, 100 higher in early August, 300 higher in late August and early September, 375 higher in early October, and almost 900 higher in late September when the first picking of tomatoes will overlap peak activities in the bean harvest.

Beans, snap. The first picking will be light, and later pickings progressively heavier. Labor requirements are 50 higher at the start of the harvest in late July, 100 higher in early August and early October, and 300, 300, and 500 higher in the three periods from August 16 to September 30.

Tomatoes. Small acreages were planted on an experimental basis in 1955, and proved quite successful. This year the increased acreage transfers this activity from "all other agriculture" to a major activity, and raises the labor requirement by 380 and 275 during the peak in late September and early October.

Field Crops. Loss of hop acreage will be more than offset by increased acreage of hay in more remote areas. Labor requirements will not change in the mechanized hay harvest but will be 100 lower for hop training in early July and 100-175 lower in the hop harvest, from mid-August to September 30.

All other agriculture. Little change is expected in labor requirements for these activities. Although tomatoes and strawberries have been removed from minor crop harvests, acreages of other vegetables are being planted on an experimental basis. Labor requirements for land preparation and planting may be underestimated, since there is a possibility that brush will be removed from more unused land and the ground prepared for walnuts and vegetables.

July-December 1956

EMPLOYMENT OF DOMESTIC WORKERS (SEE TABLE II)

I. Trends.

Farm workers continually are being lost to Mare Island Navy Yard, Travis Air Force Base, Kaiser Steel Company, Basalt Rock Company, and to the construction and lumbering industries. It is not only experienced mature farm workers who are leaving, but many local boys whose parents own farms also are leaving home ranches for work in other industries. Native Indians in the northern part of the area are transferring from agriculture to woods and sawmill work.

A few enterprising migrant farm workers have established homes in the area; however some of these workers also have found employment in nonagricultural industries.

Many of the local workers will be youth and housewives because many of the men can take advantage of higher paying industrial jobs in this area. Wages offered to male workers are nearly double the hourly rate for agriculture. In addition there are advantages of benefits obtained through industrial employment. If early rains occur in the North Coast Area, work in the logging industry ceases, allowing many of the workers to take on farm work such as pruning activities. The period in which this labor supply can become available will vary from 45 to 60 days depending on an early or late rainfall. Orchardists now have a tendency to start pruning early in the fall rather than to wait until early in the year. The worker output in pruning operations during the late fall is much greater than during the winter months when the ladders sink into the mud. Fruit growers are reluctant to hire inexperienced tree pruners as an inexperienced pruner can ruin the fruit buds which represent the next summer's crop.

Students over 16 years of age participate in harvests during vacation periods, primarily harvests of beans, strawberries, pears, and prunes. They seldom are employed in the grape harvest because of the danger involved in handling knives, and because the grape harvest occurs late in the season when schools open.

Since this is predominantly a fruit area, migrant fruit pickers have for many years included it in their itinerary. It has been customary for advance scouts to investigate crop and working conditions and report back to their friends. The number of migrant fruit pickers coming into the area for various harvests has depended almost entirely on the report of these scouts. For the past several years, the migrant labor supply has been dwindling. It was quite small in 1955. Tighter enforcement of school laws and the opening of schools in the prune harvest period has caused some families to stay home rather than travel to this area where they can work only part of the season.

High industrial wages offered have induced more and more farm workers to go into the industrial field. In years past, the entire migrant family would do field work during the harvest period. At present, however, the father and other qualified members of the family frequently seek seasonal industrial work, leaving the other members of the family for field work. In addition, fewer migrant families are now arriving in this area and the gap between labor supply and labor requirements is widening, necessitating the need for more Mexican Nationals.

Migrants do come into the area to work in the following crops:

Apples.

Many experienced apple pickers from Washington, Oregon, and the Santa Cruz area of California, come into this district to harvest the market apples. Many family heads will go into the packing houses at a higher rate of pay and the other family members, including the youth, will work in the orchards.

Prunes.

The harvest of prunes is a family operation with Spanish speaking families arriving from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California. Earnings of these family groups run as much as \$30.00 to \$40.00 per day. These groups, upon the completion of the prune harvest, move southward into the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys harvesting tomatoes and, later, cotton.

Grapes.

Not a great many migrants arrive from the San Joaquin Valley to work in the harvest of wine grapes as their earnings in such Vally crops as tomatoes, raisin and table grapes, and cotton offer a better income.

Pears.

The pear harvest in this area starts prior to the completion of the pear harvest in Sacramento Valley. Workers will leave the Sacramento Valley harvest and come to this area in order to maintain their high earnings.

II. Assumptions.

Employment estimates are based on the following assumptions: that increased fruit production will bring in more migrant workers; that more local women can be persuaded to participate in fruit harvests than in 1955; that part of the loss of migrant prune picking families who were in the area in 1955 will be offset by use of day-haul workers from San Francisco; and that fewer hop workers will migrate to this area since acreage continues to decline.

On the basis of these assumptions, estimates of employment are 100 and 70 higher than in 1955 in the two July periods, 330 and 735 higher in the two August periods, 400 higher in September, about 230 higher in early October, and 20 higher from mid-October to December 31.

III. Employment by type of worker.

Farmers, unpaid family, and hired year-round workers. Employment estimates have been increased by 20 in all forecast periods, on the basis that a slight expansion in number of farms is anticipated, and that one of the largest growers in the area is expecting to increase his year-round work force slightly.

Local workers. It is almost inevitable that there will be fewer local men available for farm work in the 1956 season. In early May, the area was canvassed in an effort to find 150 men to perform common labor work on the Monticello Dam which is under construction. Although experience was not required, and \$2.00 hr. was offered, a few men could be recruited in this area.

It is expected, however, that more local women and youth will participate in harvests of pears, prunes, snap beans, berries and tomatoes because of higher production. Estimates of the number of local workers to be employed are 50 higher in July, from 100 to 200 higher in August, September and early October, and the same as in 1955 for the remainder of the forecast period.

Intrastate migrant workers. A few more single men are expected to come from the Sacramento pear harvest, and the expanded San Francisco-Oakland day-haul is expected to bring in a few more workers than in 1955 during the August and September peak. By late September opening of schools and competition from larger harvests in other areas will cause withdrawals from the work force in this area. Employment estimates are 400 higher in late August, from 100-200 higher in early August and in September, and the same as in 1955 during the remaining forecast period.

Interstate migrant workers. Migration of Oregon workers probably will be somewhat higher because high yield in fruit means easy picking and good earnings. Although the numbers are relatively small, it is estimated that a few more vegetable workers from Southern and Western States will find their way to this area for harvests of beans and tomatoes, possibly through curiosity regarding the expanding vegetable production. Employment estimates are between 80 and 180 higher in August and September, 60 higher in early October, and the same as in 1955 for the remainder of the forecast periods.

IV. Employment by Major Crop Group.

Fruit and Nuts. Overlapping peaks and higher production in prunes and pears are expected to increase employment by 500 and 300 in late August and early September. Completion of the pear harvest in mid-September will cause migrant pear pickers to leave the area. At the same time local students leave for school, and migrant prune picking families leave for opening of schools in their home communities. About 200 more local women and individual migrant workers, however, are expected to remain on the job until the end of September. Employment estimates are higher for harvests of grapes and walnuts in late October, and for berries and apples in July. Little or no change is expected in labor supply in early August, early October, and from November 1 to December 31.

Vegetables. On the basis of increased acreages of snap beans and tomatoes, employment estimates have been increased by 200-335 between August 1 and October 15. There are more workers who are willing to pick beans than tomatoes, so at the completion of the bean harvest in mid-October the employment estimate is 80 below that of a year ago, allowing for a loss of local workers.

Field Crops. On the assumption that fewer hop workers will come to the area because of a further reduction in acreage, employment estimates have been decreased by 100 in the first half of July, the last half of August, and in September.

All Other Agriculture. This work is performed primarily by farmers and year-round men in this area. Local farm workers are added to the work force during seasons of peak operations in each activity. Because most of the activities in this category involve heavy work or operation of machinery, women cannot replace men. The labor supply is expected to be about the same as in 1955.

V. Recruitment of Workers.

We are planning the operation of seven seasonal offices in the North Coast Area to assist in the placing and recruiting of various farm workers, and five seasonal recruiting offices in the metropolitan Bay Area to supply certain areas with day-haul workers. It is expected that a large number of the Bay Area workers will day-haul into the North Coast Area and that at least 5,000 referrals will be made into the North Coast Area during the season from these metropolitan offices.

We are planning to use the press, local radio stations, and farm labor bulletins to publicize the need for seasonal workers. During the past few years, radio and newspaper media have brought us excellent recruitment results.

Clearance procedures in the past have not produced results as other areas were also short of workers during our period of need.

In past years, few women were taken on day-haul trips. It is now estimated that a greater number will be used this year than in the past.

In Richmond there is an organized youth committee which is assisting us in recruiting day-haul youth. During 1955, this was a successful program; we expect to increase the number employed during 1956.

Very few Indians are now available in Lake County for farm work as they now have an opportunity to do industrial work at higher pay.

In San Francisco, we expect again to use Chinese youth in the harvest of such crops as pears, apricots and string beans. They will operate on a day-haul basis.

Farm Advisory Committees have been appointed in each county but generally function only during an emergency.

The East Bay Labor Council, through their weekly newspaper, informs many workers about our Oakland day-haul operation. This labor organization has materially assisted us in recruiting farm workers.

County Welfare Departments have been very active in referring their clients to us for farm work. Workers referred through Welfare Agencies have met with a fair amount of success.

Churches in San Francisco and the Oakland areas have been very cooperative in making announcements at the conclusion of their services about job opportunities for those desiring farm work. This is particularly true in the Negro churches. Before the school semester ends we distribute application blanks to the students interested in summer farm work and later notify those individuals when the job opportunity exists. Fifty percent of the registered students respond when they were called for work.

ES-229 NORTH COAST AREA
July-December 1956

LABOR SHORTAGE (SEE TABLE III)

1. Number of contract foreign workers expected to be employed in the area on July 1: 370.
2. Origin of workers to be used to fill shortages: Mexico.
3. Number of contract foreign workers to be used beyond December 31: approximately 630 for orchard and vineyard pruning.
4. Summary.

Labor requirements are increasing each year because of higher productivity of orchards and because of expanding vegetable acreage. Although it is estimated in this report that the supply of domestic workers will be higher, later events may prove that we are too optimistic. Because of changing crop conditions, differences in growing seasons, or changes in expected labor supply, the use of foreign contract workers may be necessary in any crop activity even though we do not feel at this time that a particular crop activity will use Mexican Nationals. It is difficult to forecast the exact number of Mexican Nationals to be needed in any particular activity so far in advance of the season.

Estimates in this report provide for an increase in the number of Mexican Nationals as follows: under 100 in seven half-month periods; between 100 and 200 in two periods, and over 200 in three half-month periods. This does not take into account the unmet labor demand of 1955 which is shown in Table III.

Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in
1956 and Changes From 1955

Area Number: 10-5-04

Area: NORTH COAST

Crop and Activity	1955		1956		Change from 1955	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total.....	151,038	***	152,157	***	+ 1,119	***
Fruit and Nuts Total	78,550	***	78,527	***	- 23	***
Apples thin-harvest.....	9,482	100,953 T	9,482	86,000 T	0	- 14,953 T
Berrios, bush harvest.....	550	1,200 T	600	1,300 T	+ 50	+ 100 T
Berries, straw harvest.....	15	156 T	30	312 T	+ 15	+ 156 T
Grapes harvest.....	28,038	81,992 T	28,038	85,000 T	0	+ 3,008 T
Pears harvest.....	8,727	55,106 T	8,727	75,000 T	0	+ 19,894 T
Prunes harvest.....	25,250	77,766 T	25,200	90,903 T	- 50	+ 13,137 T
Walnuts harvest.....	6,488	3,437 DT	6,450	3,460 DT	- 38	+ 23 DT
Orchards prune.....	58,807*	--	58,807*	--	0	--
Vineyards hoe-prune.....	28,371*	--	28,371*	--	0	--
Vegetables Total	1,078	9,662 T	2,130	17,695 T	+ 1,052	+ 8,033 T
Beans, snap harvest.....	414	3,042 T	480	3,555 T	+ 66	+ 513 T
Tomatoes harvest.....	664	6,620 T	1,650	14,140 T	+ 986	+ 7,520 T
Field Crops Total	71,410	***	71,500	***	+ 90	***
Hay harvest.....	70,600	121,100 T	70,600	120,850 T	+ 200	- 250 T
Hops Train-harvest.....	810	5,812 B	700	5,081 B	- 110	- 731 B

* Excluded from totals

T Ton

DT Dry ton

B Bales

Table I
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-04

Area: NORTH COAST

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirement.....	22,600	23,950	27,630	33,225	33,370	30,600	27,510	27,460	25,530	22,230	22,250	22,550
Fruit and Nuts Total	2,000	3,000	6,280	10,500	10,520	7,200	5,280	5,430	3,340	1,050	1,420	1,950
Apples thin-harvest.....	800	2,100	3,200	2,700	1,700	1,350	1,300	1,150	350	--	--	--
Berries, bush harvest.....	850	850	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Berries, straw harvest.....	150	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grapes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	600	3,100	3,670	2,100	--	--	--
Pears harvest.....	--	--	2,480	4,450	3,650	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prunes harvest.....	--	--	300	3,350	5,170	5,250	880	--	--	--	--	--
Walnuts harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	610	890	400	--	--
Orchards prune.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	650	1,250	1,450
Vineyards hoe-prune.....	200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	170	500
Vegetables Total	--	650	1,700	2,800	2,800	3,000	1,100	250	60	--	--	--
Beans, snap harvest.....	--	650	1,700	2,800	2,800	2,500	600	--	--	--	--	--
Tomatoes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	500	500	250	60	--	--	--
Field Crops Total	900	630	400	665	1,200	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hay, alfalfa and other harvest.....	750	630	400	340	300	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hops train-hoe.....	150	--	--	325	900	450	--	--	--	--	--	--
All Other Agriculture	19,700	19,670	19,250	19,260	18,850	19,950	21,130	21,780	22,130	21,180	20,830	20,600

Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Workers and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July-December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-04

Area: NORTH COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of Expected Employment												
Total	22,190	23,090	25,850	31,225	31,370	28,650	26,060	26,030	25,030	21,910	21,930	22,190
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired...	19,020	19,020	19,020	19,020	19,020	19,020	18,820	18,820	18,820	18,820	18,820	18,820
Local.....	2,300	3,000	4,730	6,690	6,940	5,680	4,650	4,700	3,650	2,030	2,150	2,340
Intrastate migratory.....	540	770	1,590	4,470	4,490	3,230	2,150	2,160	2,050	835	810	880
Interstate migratory.....	330	300	510	1,045	920	720	1,040	350	510	225	150	150
Section B. Use of Expected Employment												
Total.....	22,190	23,090	25,850	31,225	31,370	28,650	26,060	26,030	25,030	21,910	21,930	22,190
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	1,650	2,390	4,770	8,980	9,020	6,270	4,314	4,290	2,940	850	1,200	1,622
Major Vegetables.....	--	520	1,540	2,545	2,410	2,160	706	60	10	--	--	--
Major Field Crops.....	890	630	400	550	1,200	390	--	--	--	--	--	--
All other farm work.....	19,650	19,550	19,140	19,150	18,740	19,830	21,040	21,680	22,080	21,060	20,730	20,568
Section C. Preceding Year's Employment												
Total.....	22,090	23,020	25,520	30,490	30,970	28,250	25,830	26,010	25,010	21,890	21,910	22,170
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired...	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	18,800	18,800	18,800	18,800	18,800	18,800
Local.....	2,250	2,950	4,620	6,490	6,840	5,580	4,500	4,700	3,650	2,030	2,150	2,340
Intrastate migratory.....	540	770	1,490	4,070	4,290	3,130	2,150	2,160	2,050	835	810	880
Interstate migratory.....	300	300	410	930	840	540	380	350	510	225	150	150

Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop
and Need for Contract Mexican Nationals
July-December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-04

Area: NORTH COAST

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	22,600	23,950	27,630	33,225	33,370	30,600	27,510	27,460	25,530	22,230	22,250	22,550
2. Expected employment.....	22,190	23,090	25,850	31,225	31,370	28,650	26,060	26,030	25,030	21,910	21,930	22,190
3. Estimated shortage.....	410	860	1,780	2,000	2,000	1,950	1,450	1,430	500	320	320	360
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	350	610	1,510	1,520	1,500	930	966	1,140	400	200	220	328
b. Vegetable crops.....	--	130	160	255	390	840	394	190	50	--	--	--
c. Field crops.....	10	--	--	115	--	60	--	--	--	--	--	--
d. All other agriculture.....	50	120	110	110	110	120	90	100	50	120	100	32
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals(1).....	360	824	1,401	1,756	1,745	1,397	1,320	1,166	309	240	235	281
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (2).....	--	--	180	120	30	40	75	30	--	15	14	--

- (1) Represents the Mexican Nationals who were actually working. Excludes those Mexican Nationals who were ill, on furlough, or who were awaiting assignment or repatriation.
- (2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (SEE TABLE I)

I. Trends.

In most counties the number of farms is decreasing, but the average size is increasing. Large farms are expanding, and small farms are going out of business.

Industrial growth is progressing more slowly in this principally agricultural area than in other California areas; however, residential expansion is quite noticeable in the vicinity of such major cities as Bakersfield, Fresno, Madera, Modesto, and Stockton. Within the past two or three years an estimated 30,000 acres of farm land, usually in small family farms, have been converted to subdivisions.

The amount of new land which has been developed for agriculture far exceeds the amount taken for new homes, however, and there are thousands of acres of land which can still be prepared for agricultural use. Major expansion is occurring on the west side where large farms are bringing more land under irrigation. There is also a minor growth in the foothill districts east of the valley. Most of the foothill farms, however, might be classified as marginal. In Kern County some 8,500 acres in the Wasco and Wheeler Ridge districts have been newly planted to potatoes, alfalfa, and cotton. In Kings County permanent pasture has been converted to grain fields. The western part of Fresno County is expanding into vegetable production, and new orchards and vineyards are being planted in eastern hill country and river bottom land. In Madera County there is a considerable amount of conversion of unused land to food producing acreages in all parts of the county. During the past two years 5,000 acres of land on the west side of Merced County have been brought under irrigation, and "displaced" farmers from Santa Clara County are establishing new fruit, nut, and vegetable farms in the Los Banos district. Farmers in Stanislaus County have put 15,000 acres of west side land under irrigation for production of tomatoes, melons, alfalfa, and seed crops. The same situation exists in San Joaquin County, where expansion in western districts is reflected in higher tomato acreage.

Imposition of cotton allotments has resulted in some significant changes in crop production in the Valley. During the past few years there have been many new plantings of orchards and vineyards, and vegetable production has increased. Loss of cotton acreage is reflected particularly in larger acreages of melons, lettuce, sugar beets, alfalfa, seed crops, rice and corn. The over-all trend in Fresno County is reflected by other counties in varying degrees. On the east side of the county the trend is away from diversification and toward concentration on orchards and vineyards. On the west side the large farms are becoming more diversified, with plantings each year dependent upon market price and demand. In the west side Helm district permanent pasture has dominated in past years. This year 800 acres of pasture were ripped out, and tomatoes were planted. If production is satisfactory, further changeover to vegetables can be expected in this district.

Mechanization of agricultural operations is increasing slowly. Harvests of alfalfa, grain, sugar beets, and potatoes already are highly mechanized. About half of the cotton is machine picked. This varies from year to year, depending upon the supply of hand pickers, since loss of grade occurs when cotton is picked

by machine. There has been a small amount of cotton chopping by machine; however, it hasn't been entirely successful since machines are complicated and break down frequently, and no plant selection can be made. The University of California is developing a mechanical grape picker which, when perfected, will revolutionize the grape harvest. Since vines must be on special trellises which are supported by heavy posts, conversion to machine picking will be extremely costly, so the changeover is expected to be very slow when it starts. At present there is an increasing use of gondolas instead of boxes for the wine grape harvest. Each gondola holds two tons, and is filled by picking crews of from four to six workers who are paid by the ton.

The Valley is an area of high farm labor requirements, and for many years employment charts were a series of sharp high peaks and low valleys. There has been a concentrated effort to smooth the curve by planting crops which would provide work in offseasons. Since cotton has been replaced by various other crops which are ready for harvest at different periods, the effect has been to lower and lengthen the peaks, and to have fewer periods of relative inactivity.

II. Assumptions.

Residential expansion probably will continue at about the same rate as in 1955, but farm land lost in this manner is expected to be more than offset by the preparation of unused land and pasture land for the production of crops. No frost damage has occurred this year, and current prospects are for high yield per acre. It is assumed that the use of harvest machines, the market demand, and prices will approximate 1955 experience.

Last year weather was cold from January to late May and cool until August. This caused an overlapping of harvest activities which were from seven to ten days late. The season for most farm activities should be advanced from one to two weeks this year, on the assumption that fall crops will follow the pattern already set by spring crops. On the other hand, winter floods in some parts of the Valley delayed planting this spring, and in these counties some crops are expected to follow the 1955 time table rather closely.

III. Labor requirements.

Estimates of labor requirements are based on the tabulation of acreage and production which precedes Table I. Accordingly, labor requirements reflect the need to accomplish agricultural work on 3.9 million acres, about 56,500 acres more than in 1955. Approximately 68 percent of the acreage increase is in field crops, 20 percent in fruit and nuts, and 12 percent in vegetables.

Labor requirement estimates for 1955 have been revised downward by about 1500 in "all other agriculture". Estimates for 1956 are based on the revised figures.

The total number of workers required in the area reaches a spring peak in June, declines slightly in July, and then starts the gradual climb to the September peak, after which the decline is gradual until November, and sharp in November and December. During the forecast period the July low is expected to be approximately 199,250, the early September peak 254,400, and the December low 191,300. Labor requirement estimates average 5,200 higher than 1955 during July and August, 7,700 higher in the September-October peak period, and 3,100 higher in November and December. Largest increases are in fruit, nuts, and vegetables in the first half of the forecast period, and in field crops (cotton) in the last half.

Fruit and Nuts. Peak labor requirement of 89,100 will occur in early September, caused by harvest of raisin grapes. During the month of September, 5,850 and 4,900 more workers will be required than were needed in 1955. In late August the larger peach harvest will raise requirements by 3,750. In July and in early August, labor requirements range from 2,170 to 1,440 higher than in 1955. During October and in early November, requirements are from 400 to 1,100 lower than last year, and in late November and in December they are about 1,200 higher.

Almonds. An earlier start and a longer season will raise labor requirements by 30 and 180 in September, and by 420 in early November.

Apricots. Labor requirements are 150 and 100 lower in July, a combination of lower production and an earlier season.

Berries, bush. Approximately 950 more pickers will be required during July, and 200 more workers will be needed for pruning and tying in late July and early August.

Berries, straw. In this area the picking season used to be very short; however, for the past two years increased freezer and cannery demand has lengthened the season, and picking continues until stopped by rain. An earlier start and higher production this year will raise labor requirements by 750 in early July, by 200 to 300 from mid-July to September 30, and by 350 and 400 in October. Estimates are the same as in 1955 in early November and 50 lower in late November. Cultural work has become a major activity now, deducted from "all other agriculture". Approximately 200 workers will be required for general cultural work until mid-October, after which 250-300 will be needed for the planting season through December.

Figs. Approximately 50 more workers will be required from August 16 to November 30.

Grapes. Harvest of table grapes starts in July and continues until about mid-November. Picking for wineries continues from early September until late November. The raisin grape harvest starts the last week in August, is at a peak from September 1 to September 20, when all grapes must be picked and put on trays to dry, and continues at a considerably lower level of requirement until mid-November. The tonnage to be picked for market and wineries depends on day-to-day market and winery prices. This year production for raisins is expected to be considerably higher than in 1955, while the tonnage of table and wine grapes probably will be lower. Labor requirements are 500, 2,600, and 4,100 higher for the raisin harvest in late August and during September. The number of workers needed for the table and wine grape harvest will be about the same in late July and early August because an earlier start will offset lowered requirements in this period. Requirements are 900 and 1600 lower in the two October periods, and 1,480 lower in early November. A longer season is expected to raise labor requirements by 300 in late November and 200 in early December. Because of the short duration of the raisin harvest, increases in labor requirements are necessarily higher than are the decreases in the longer table and wine grape harvests.

Olives. Harvest for canneries occurs in the fall, and picking for oil is a winter activity, usually extending into January. In 1955 virtually all of the olives were canned. In 1956 it is expected that demand for oil olives will be higher, consequently more pickers will be needed late in the harvest period. Labor requirements are 240 and 210 lower in October, 300 and 400 higher in November, and 250 and 400 higher in December.

Oranges, Navel. No change is anticipated in the need for workers at the beginning of the harvest in late November and in December.

Peaches. Increased production is expected principally in late varieties of market and in canning peaches. Labor requirements are 100 higher in July, 750 higher in early August, 2,700 higher in late August and early September, and 120 higher in late September.

Plums. Labor requirements are 320 higher in early July, and 80 higher in late July, decreasing to 50 higher in late August.

Prunes. A shorter harvest period will decrease labor requirements by 50 in early October.

Walnuts. Approximately 50 more workers will be needed from September 16 to November 30.

Orchards. Orchard pruning was virtually stopped in the Delta district during the December 1955 floods. Larger acreage and allowance for more activity in December will raise labor requirements by 250 in late November, and by 450 during December.

Vineyards. An expected earlier start will increase labor requirements by 50 in early December. The acreage increase will have little effect on the number of pruners needed until after January 1.

Vegetables. Acreage on which work will be performed in the forecast period totals 218,800, approximately 6,900 acres more than in 1955. Major increases will occur in plantings of tomatoes and melons. Labor requirements start at 21,150 in early July, increase during August to the 31,000 peak in September, decline gradually in October, and drop sharply during November to 5,900 in December. Approximately 2,800 and 3,500 more workers will be required in July than were needed last year. In August, increases total 3,900 and 600. In the four September and October reporting periods increases amount to 1,500, 2,650, 2,100 and 530. For the remainder of the forecast period fewer workers will be required.

Beans, green lima. This harvest is highly mechanized so estimates have been increased by 30 between August 16 and November 15.

Lettuce. The harvest will require approximately 50 more workers during November and in early December.

Melons, cantaloupes. An earlier start in hoeing will decrease labor requirements by almost 200 at the end of the hoeing season in early July. There will be more melons to pick, and the harvest will start earlier this year. Labor requirements are 1,800 higher in early July, 650-680 higher in late July and early August, from 380 higher to 800 higher between mid-August and September 30, and 400-480 higher during October and in early November.

Melons, water. This harvest also is expected to start earlier than in 1955. Labor requirements are 300 higher in early July, approximately 150 higher from mid-July to August 31, and under 100 higher for the remainder of the harvest season.

Peas. Increased acreage will raise labor requirements by 100 in late November and by 50 in early December.

Potatoes, Irish. Harvesting starts in Kern County in May, and spreads gradually northward through the Valley until the harvest ends in San Joaquin County in December. Because seasons and changes in acreage are different in the various potato counties, labor requirements and changes from 1955 fluctuate. Labor requirements will be lower than in 1955 for most forecast periods, in amounts ranging from 350 in July and December to 50 in late September, early October, and late November. Approximately 100 more workers will be needed in late October and early November.

Potatoes, sweet. No change is anticipated in labor requirements.

Tomatoes. Last year, because of market conditions, the greater portion of tomatoes planted for shipment in July and August were allowed to ripen and were picked for canneries in late August and September. It is assumed that this unusual condition will not prevail this year, and that harvest for market will be considerably heavier. Almost 80 percent of the increased plantings are in San Joaquin County where cannery tomatoes are raised. Thinning and hoeing will require 950 and 1000 more workers in July, and 500 and 100 more in August. Estimates of labor requirements for the harvest make no allowance for plant capacity, or for the possibility that delivery quotas may have to be imposed. If this occurs, the peak will be lowered and lengthened, and rainy weather may stop the picking before the entire crop is harvested. Estimates are based on the assumption that picking will start earlier this year, and that the entire crop will be harvested without interruption. Labor requirements have been increased by 250 and 2,050 in July, and by 2,700 and 200 in August to allow for higher production for market. Assuming that the harvest of cannery tomatoes also will start earlier than in 1955, labor requirements have been raised by 1000 and 1,900 in September, and by 1,600 in early October. With an earlier start, picking is expected to drop off faster, and labor requirements have been reduced by 1,600 in early November.

Field Crops. Except for cotton, harvest operations in these crops are almost completely mechanized, so labor requirements will not be affected to any large extent despite an over-all increase of 38,500 acres from last year.

The cotton harvest is a different story. Machines are available on the large cotton farms, but not necessarily on the smaller farms since the cost of a cotton picking machine is very high. Even though farmers have mechanical equipment they do not like to use it because breakdowns are frequent, because machine-picked cotton loses grade through the inclusion of foreign substances, and because textile mills complain that machine-picked cotton is tangled. As a result, machines are used in large numbers only when there is an inadequate supply of hand pickers.

Labor requirements for field crops reach a peak of 59,700 in early November, with a slight decline in the last half of November. From 180 to 430 more workers will be required in July and August. In September labor requirements will be about the same as in 1955. During October, the cotton harvest will raise requirements by 8,400 and 6,400. The increase is expected to taper off to 4,500 and 4,000 in November, and to 400 and 1,400 in December.

Beans, dry. Approximately 150 more workers will be required for hoeing in July and early August, and 20-50 more for the harvest period, September 1 to November 30.

Corn, field. Increased acreage will raise labor requirements by 30 during October and November.

Cotton. Labor requirements for hoeing are expected to be 150 higher in July, but 400 and 250 higher in August because of late plantings this spring. From 50 to 75 more pickers are expected to be needed in September. Requirements are 8,400 and 6,500 higher in October, 4,700 and 4,100 higher in November, and 400 higher in early December. Additional allowance was made in late December because of heavy rains during the 1955 period, so requirements are 1,350 higher in this period.

Grain. Increased acreage will require about 50 more workers during July and August.

Hay, Alfalfa. Increased mechanization is expected to reduce labor requirements by 200 despite increased acreage. The harvest is carried on over such a long period that changes in acreage have little effect on labor requirements.

Hay, other. No change is expected in labor requirements.

Seed Crops. Labor requirements are 50 higher for hoeing in July, and 40-90 higher for the harvest from August 16 to October 31.

Sugar beets. Approximately 50 more hoers will be required in July, and 30 more for the harvest from August 1 to December 31.

All other agriculture. Labor requirements average almost 129,000, ranging from 122,300 to 137,300. Most workers are required during the season of heavy irrigation, July and August. A rough percentage breakdown of activities included in this category is as follows: land preparation and planting, 6 percent; cultivating not included in major activities, 15 percent; irrigating, 32 percent; dairies, 14 percent; livestock, 6 percent; poultry, 8 percent; minor crop harvests, 3 percent; and all other miscellaneous activities, 16 percent.

Labor requirements for 1956 are from 150 below to 150 above the revised estimates for 1955. A slight increase is expected in preparation and planting of new land, and a moderate increase is anticipated in requirements for irrigators since sprinkler irrigation is increasing in foothill districts, and more land is being brought under irrigation in the west side.

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JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SUPPLY (SEE TABLE II)

I. Trends and Assumptions.

Historically, the northern part of the Valley has been a farm labor shortage area while Fresno and counties south have been labor supply centers.

The outlook for labor supply in the north end of the Valley is not very favorable this year. The civilian labor force was only six percent higher in March than a year ago in the Stockton labor market area, while nonagricultural employment was almost 10 percent higher and unemployment was 22 percent lower. It can be assumed, with job opportunities existing in higher paying, easier work, which provides more benefits, that local farm workers will transfer to these jobs, and that fewer workers will be available to agriculture.

The Linden, San Joaquin County, cherry harvest is usually a barometer of the season's supply of migrant workers in the northern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. It is the first fruit harvest which attracts both intrastate and interstate workers. This year, with a good crop, there were fewer migrant pickers, and labor shortages were prevalent from the beginning of the harvest. It is assumed from this situation that the supply of migrant workers also will fall short of the 1955 level in other fruit crops and certainly in most vegetable harvests. The same situation should apply to counties between San Joaquin and Fresno.

In the Fresno labor market, the civilian labor force in March showed practically no change from March 1955. Nonagricultural employment was about three percent higher, and unemployment was seven percent lower. Required employment for nonagricultural industries is expected to increase by July, possibly to the extent of making nonagricultural jobs available to local agricultural workers. Labor shortages have been prevalent in most early spring farm activities in the Fresno area.

In the southern portion of the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County has the first spring harvest which attracts migrant workers - the potato harvest. Labor shortages were reported the fourth week of the harvest, when migrants usually have arrived. Shortages also have been general in cotton chopping, grape thinning, and in harvests of plums and onions. For a county which usually has the best supply of migrant farm workers in the State, labor shortages at this time indicate a noticeable lowering of the supply of migrant workers.

For the Valley as a whole, it is reported that local farm workers are going into aircraft work, vending machine manufacture, warehouse work, construction, and service. This loss is partially offset by the addition of farmer migrant workers who continue to settle in small farm communities, although the number of new settlers is lower than in the past few years. The shortage of qualified local farm workers in 1955 was alleviated to some extent by the response of local housewives to appeals for harvest help. Women were used in harvests of berries, grapes, peaches and cotton.

An indication of the supply of migrant workers can be obtained from the many migrant worker camps which are located in the Valley. Last year a noticeable number of family housing units were unoccupied. This year the population is below that of the same period last year.

II. Employment

It is anticipated that employment in agriculture will range from a low of 183,760 in late December to a peak of 225,240 during the raisin harvest in early September, with a secondary peak of 214,250 in late October. Estimates are between 800 and 1,000 lower in early July, late September, and in October. Reductions of 1,000 to 1,700 are estimated for late July, early September, all of November, and early December. Most significant decreases, 2,000 to 2,500, are expected in August and in late December.

Employment by type of worker.

The estimated number of farmers, unpaid family, and hired year-round workers has been increased by 100 to allow for expansion of larger farms, addition of new farm land, and the changeover from dry pasture and field crops to irrigated orchards and vegetable farms. Conservative estimates indicate a loss of approximately 300 local workers. Consideration was given to the over-all loss partially offset by new residents.

The sharpest decline is expected to occur in the supply of intrastate migrants. This fact has been demonstrated during spring activities. Good agricultural production and opportunities for work in nonagricultural industries in home areas are expected to make significant inroads on the number of workers who formerly migrated to this area. The largest decrease is expected to occur in August and early September when bumper fruit harvests in other areas probably will keep workers at home, and in late December when orchard pruners from flood areas came to the Valley in 1955. Employment estimates are 540 and 730 lower in July than in 1955, 1,840 and 1,440 lower in August, 1,100 and 500 lower in September, from 430 to 730 lower in October and November, and 840 and 1,200 lower in December.

Fewer interstate migrants are expected to be available, though the decline is expected to be more moderate than for intrastate workers. Estimates of employment have been reduced by 200 and 280 in July, 450 in August, 350 and 200 in September, 200 in October, 430 and 550 in November, and by 630 and 720 in December.

Employment by major crop group.

Fruit and Nuts. Employment is expected to be approximately 300 and 460 lower in July, 740 - 800 lower in August, 850 and 500 lower in September, 500 and 450 lower in October, 450 and 630 lower in November, and 750 and 850 lower in December. Forecasts of high fruit and nut production in other California areas probably will keep some former migrants at home.

Vegetables. Employment estimates are 600 - 700 lower in July, 1,700 and 1,240 lower in August, 750 and 350 lower in September, 280 and 440 lower in October (tomatoes), 580 and 650 lower in November, and 670 and 920 lower in December. As labor shortages develop in fruit harvests, vegetable workers move into fruit work which is more attractive and easier, thus creating greater shortages in stoop labor work.

Field Crops. Many of the workers in field crops, particularly hay, grain, rice and cotton, are interstate migrants. Estimates have been reduced by 100 from July 1 to October 15, by 150 in late October, 200 and 250 in November, and 300 - 400 in December.

All other agriculture. Employment in this category has been increased by 50 to allow for more farmers and year-round workers on expanding large farms and on new farms.

III. Types of local workers which are expected to be used.

The usual supply of local workers is expected to be smaller in this period. Local workers are increasingly finding employment in nonagricultural activities, as demand for this type of worker continues high in the Valley area.

Older students and housewives will be available during school vacation periods. However, with the exception of the harvesting of the raisin crop in the center of the Valley, these workers will meet only a small portion of the increased labor requirements.

The seasonal workers residing in the fringe areas of the larger cities of the Valley, such as Stockton, Bakersfield and Fresno, are in many instances not acceptable in the harvest activities of perishable fruits, since they are inexperienced and frequently unreliable.

IV. Origin of migratory workers.

The intrastate migrant worker seeking employment in the San Joaquin Valley is largely from the Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Areas, with this type of worker year after year becoming less in number.

The interstate worker migrates from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, the Southern States, and New Mexico and Arizona. The supply of workers from this source showed a sharp decline in 1955, with the decline continuing into 1956 due largely to increased employment in these states in both agricultural and nonagricultural pursuits, which has made the annual trip to California less attractive to these workers. With evidence of continued high employment on a nationwide basis it would be reasonable to assume that the San Joaquin Valley will experience a continued decline in interstate migration of farm help.

V. Recruitment plans.

Recruitment by means of press, radio and television will continue on a weekly basis in each county, as well as on a Valleywide basis.

Housewives and older students will be recruited whenever available for crop activities for which they are qualified.

Day-haul operations will continue at all points as in the past, and will be conducted to their greatest advantage, with particular emphasis being placed on extending the operations at Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto. The labor pools generally throughout the Valley are continuing to decline in both quantity and quality of workers and no improvement is in prospect during the forecast period.

Despite the decline in clearance activities experienced over previous years it is expected that the interstate clearance procedure will be resorted to again this year in the peach harvest.

Armed Forces and Indians are not usually used in this area and only in extreme emergency can we expect any assistance from the military.

While there are no special programs for veterans, veteran organizations will continue to be advised when appropriate, and their assistance solicited.

The county advisory committees will be kept advised of labor needs and supply, and will give all assistance possible. The Cling Peach Harvest Committee of Modesto is expected again to enter active recruitment through interstate clearance. The Raisin Harvest Committee will function as usual with more emphasis on out-of-state recruiting. The Farm Bureau centers and county organizations and the Agricultural Labor Bureau, San Joaquin County Farm Production Association, etc. will continue their assistance by permitting the use of their publications.

It is expected that schools in the Valley will again assist us in recruitment of older students by re-scheduling their opening dates and by permitting students to work in harvests in which a critical labor need exists.

The seasonal workers residing in the fringe areas of the larger cities of the Valley, such as Stockton, Bakersfield and Fresno, are in many instances not accessible in the harvest activities of particular fruits, since they are inexperienced and irregularly available.

IV. Origin of migratory workers.

The interstate migrant workers seeking employment in the San Joaquin Valley is largely from the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay areas, with the type of worker from these areas becoming more in number.

The interstate worker originates from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas, Missouri, the Oklahoma States, and New Mexico and Arizona. The supply of workers from this source showed a sharp decline in 1955, with the decline continuing into 1956 and largely to increased employment in these states in both agricultural and non-agricultural pursuits, which has made the annual trip to California less attractive to these workers. With evidence to indicate high unemployment in California it is difficult to estimate the number of interstate migrants who will experience a continued decline in interstate migration to farm jobs.

V. Recruitment plans.

Recruitment by means of press, radio and television will continue on a regular basis in each county, as well as on a Valley-wide basis.

Housewives and other students will be recruited whenever available for crop activities for which they are qualified.

Two-man operations will continue at all points as in the past, and will be continued to their greatest advantage, with particular emphasis being placed on expanding the operations at Fresno, Bakersfield and Modesto. The labor people generally throughout the Valley are continuing to decline in both quantity and quality of workers and no improvement is in prospect during the present period.

Despite the decline in interstate activities experienced over previous years it is expected that the interstate clearance procedure will be resorted to again this year in the peach harvest.

Armed Forces and Nations are not usually used in this area and only in extreme emergency can we expect any assistance from the military.

While there are no special programs for veterans, veteran organizations will continue to be advised when appropriate, and their assistance solicited.

ES-229 SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AREA
JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SHORTAGE (SEE TABLE III)

With a significant increase in labor requirements and a moderate decrease in the number of workers expected to be available, the gap between demand and supply will widen and more supplemental labor will be required in the forecast period than a year ago. Despite high employment of Mexican Nationals in the last half of 1955, unmet labor shortages were prevalent during the entire period, going as high as 8,000 in late October.

1. The number of Mexican Nationals expected to be under contract in this area on July 1 is 7,000.
2. Approximately 2,000 Mexican Nationals will be needed from December 31 to March.
3. The peak need for supplemental labor will occur in early October, approximately two weeks earlier than in 1955.

Area Number: 10-5-05 Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in 1956
and Changes from 1955 Area: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Crop and Activity	1955		1956		Change from 1955	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total.....	3,852,485	***	3,909,058	***	+ 56,573	***
Fruit and Nuts..... Total	532,685	***	543,871	***	+ 11,186	***
Almonds harvest.....	23,010	14,002 T	23,122	14,050 T	+ 112	+ 48 T
Apricots harvest.....	4,292	30,076 T	4,235	29,345 T	- 57	- 731 T
Berries, bush harvest.....	1,490	7,579 T	1,695	8,579 T	+ 205	+ 1,000 T
Berries, bush prune & tie.....	940	--	1,120	--	+ 180	--
Berries, straw harvest.....	2,245	12,806 T	2,790	17,964 T	+ 545	+ 5,158 T
Berries, straw plant & hoe.....			1,600		+ 1,600	--
Figs harvest.....	23,443	33,263 T	23,498	33,341 T	+ 55	+ 78 T
Grapes, raisin harvest.....	164,188	1,060,641 T	165,800	1,096,400 T	+ 1,612	+ 35,759 T
Grapes, table & wine harvest.....	172,879	1,389,415 T	173,398	1,358,381 T	+ 519	- 31,034 T
Lemons harvest.....	1,050	236,250 PB	1,050	236,250 PB	--	--
Olives harvest.....	10,467	28,246 T	10,767	30,046 T	+ 300	+ 1,800 T
Orange, Navel harvest.....	27,010	7,475,176 PB	26,950	7,469,833 PB	- 60	- 5,343 PB
Peaches & Nect. harvest.....	55,679	612,950 T	60,220	649,260 T	+ 4,541	+ 36,310 T
Plums harvest.....	11,466	60,442 T	11,926	63,325 T	+ 460	+ 2,883 T
Prunes harvest.....	750	2,625 FT	750	2,625 FT	--	--
Walnuts harvest.....	33,776	23,529 T	34,950	26,011 T	+ 1,174	+ 2,482 T
Orchards prune.....	169,684*	--	175,734*	--	+ 6,050	--
Vineyards prune.....	275,329*	--	278,041*	--	+ 2,712	--
Vegetables..... Total	211,891	***	218,791	***	+ 6,900	***
Beans, green lima harvest.....	8,100	8,910 T	9,000	9,900 T	+ 900	+ 990 T
Celery plant-weed.....					--	--
harvest.....	1,900	33,600 T	1,900	33,600 T	--	--
Corn, sweet harvest.....	2,000	8,380 T	2,000	8,380 T	--	--
Lettuce harvest.....	400	2,000 T	500	2,500 T	+ 100	+ 500 T
Melons, Cants. & Misc. harvest.....	34,516	331,377 T	36,700	348,227 T	+ 2,184	+ 16,850 T
Melons, Water harvest.....	8,335	82,361 T	8,500	84,850 T	+ 165	+ 2,489 T
Onions, dry plant-hoe.....					--	--
harvest.....	3,361	48,122 T	3,361	48,122 T	--	--
Peas pic-pak.....	625	1,125 T	700	1,400 T	+ 75	+ 275 T
Potatoes, Irish harvest.....	24,070	270,400 T	20,400	233,000 T	- 3,670	- 37,400 T
Potatoes, Irish cut-plant.....	47,000	--	47,000	--	--	--
Potatoes, sweet harvest.....	5,767	23,836 T	5,780	30,670 T	+ 13	+ 6,834 T
Tomatoes harvest.....	59,817	913,614 T	66,950	1,006,470 T	+ 7,133	+ 92,856 T
Vegetable harvest.....	16,000	--	16,000	--	--	--
Field Crops..... Total	3,107,909	***	3,146,396	***	+ 38,487	***
Beans, dry harvest.....	59,100	40,900 T	60,000	41,060 T	+ 900	+ 160 T
Beans, dry hoe.....	45,000	--	45,000	--	--	--
Corn, field harvest.....	34,940	70,440 T	35,500	72,600 T	+ 560	+ 2,160 T
Corn, silage harvest.....	13,100	150,650 T	15,000	162,500 T	+ 1,900	+ 11,850 T
Cotton harvest.....	690,632	1,093,123 B	706,337	1,127,759 B	+ 15,705	+ 34,636 B
Cotton chop-hoe.....	48,130	--	48,130	--	--	--
Grain, small harvest.....	1,397,257	1,762,149 T	1,407,500	1,798,538 T	+ 10,243	+ 36,389 T
Hay, Alfalfa harvest.....	678,855	4,103,922 T	681,270	4,277,290 T	+ 2,415	+ 173,368 T
Hay, others harvest.....	17,500	24,950 T	20,000	28,000 T	+ 2,500	+ 3,050 T
Rice harvest.....	27,000	40,500 T	27,000	40,500 T	--	--
Seed crops harvest.....	74,591	21,493 T	77,169	22,146 T	+ 2,578	+ 653 T
Sugar beets harvest.....	21,804	478,421 T	23,490	514,592 T	+ 1,686	+ 36,171 T

Excluded from totals

T - Ton
T - Fresh ton
B - Bale
PB - Packed box

Table I
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-05

Area: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Crop Activity		July		August		September		October		November		December	
		1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirement.....		203,290	199,260	201,130	212,150	254,440	236,650	248,510	246,920	232,280	213,940	199,250	191,310
Fruit and Nuts.....	Total	22,220	20,370	27,800	42,400	89,100	63,610	55,720	50,300	33,970	20,560	18,300	25,250
Almonds	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	2,500	2,620	2,170	1,750	720	---	---	---
Apricots	harvest.....	3,800	1,420	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Berries, bush	harvest.....	4,000	1,000	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Berries, bush	prune-tie.....	---	700	700	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Berries, straw	harvest.....	1,100	1,150	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,120	1,000	1,000	600	400	---	---
Berries, straw	plant-prune-hoe...	200	200	200	200	200	220	220	250	250	300	300	300
Figs	harvest.....	---	---	---	1,300	3,150	2,400	1,800	1,100	150	100	---	---
Grapes	sucker-thin-girdle	500	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Grapes	harvest.....	---	2,500	7,000	16,100	64,400	54,300	43,000	38,100	24,400	12,900	4,100	2,000
Lemons	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100	700	700
Olives	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	100	3,230	3,500	4,150	3,810	2,000	1,600
Oranges, Navel	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	500	5,400	6,950
Peaches (inc. Nect.)	harvest.....	6,200	9,400	17,600	23,300	17,000	300	---	---	---	---	---	---
Plums	harvest.....	6,420	4,000	900	100	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Prunes	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	650	650	---	---	---	---	---	---
Walnuts	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	1,900	4,300	4,600	3,700	1,500	100	---
Orchards	prune.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	950	4,700	8,800
Vineyards	prune-tie.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,000	4,900
Vegetables.....	Total	21,150	20,650	21,150	22,220	30,500	31,750	27,480	23,310	16,300	9,800	5,900	5,900
Beans, green lima	harvest.....	---	---	---	570	800	800	800	780	200	---	---	---
Celery	plant-weed.....	400	400	300	300	300	250	---	---	---	---	---	---
Celery	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	500	1,500	1,900	1,900	1,800
Corn, sweet	harvest.....	300	100	---	---	---	---	150	300	250	100	---	---
Lettuce	harvest.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	150	200	100	---
Melons, Cants & Misc.	thin-hoe.....	500	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Melons, Cants & Misc.	harvest.....	1,800	4,800	6,900	6,900	5,250	3,500	1,600	1,200	500	---	---	---
Melons, Water	harvest.....	400	1,050	1,300	1,100	800	100	---	---	---	---	---	---
Onions, dry	harvest-pl-grow...	800	600	500	100	50	---	---	---	---	150	350	400
Peas	pick-pack.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	300	700	550	300
Potatoes, Irish	harvest-plant.....	3,500	1,300	850	1,000	1,050	800	480	380	200	150	100	500
Potatoes, sweet	harvest-hoe.....	100	400	400	100	450	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,100	500	---	---
Tomatoes	thin-hoe.....	1,900	1,700	1,000	600	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tomatoes	harvest.....	7,750	6,600	6,300	8,100	18,500	22,000	20,000	15,800	9,000	3,100	---	---
Vegetables, misc.	pl-cult-harvest...	3,700	3,700	3,600	3,450	3,300	3,300	3,250	3,150	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,900

Table I - Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity,
July - December 1956

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Field Crops..... Total	25,970	20,900	15,080	10,980	9,640	13,490	41,660	50,660	59,710	57,170	48,480	33,830
Beans, dry hoe-harvest....	2,600	2,600	850	--	200	600	800	700	600	150	--	--
Corn, field harvest.....	--	--	--	100	150	530	680	680	530	250	--	--
Cotton hoe-harvest....	9,700	7,300	5,200	1,950	800	5,700	35,000	45,300	56,400	55,700	48,200	33,550
Grain, small harvest.....	4,350	1,750	550	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hay, Alfalfa harvest.....	8,270	8,200	8,150	8,050	7,150	5,400	3,800	2,900	1,600	700	--	--
Rice harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	300	300	300	150	--	--
Seed crops weed-harvest...	600	600	--	450	930	880	800	500	--	--	--	--
Sugar, beets hoe-harvest....	450	450	330	330	410	380	280	280	280	220	280	280
All other agriculture	133,950	137,340	137,100	136,550	125,200	127,800	123,650	122,650	122,300	126,410	126,570	126,330

Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Workers and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-05

Area: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of Expected Employment												
Total.....	190,770	185,690	184,710	194,610	225,240	204,680	212,060	214,250	210,200	199,380	189,470	183,760
Farmers, unpaid family, and regular hired...	116,890	116,360	116,150	117,000	115,500	114,410	114,260	115,350	115,350	116,550	115,250	114,560
Local.....	59,640	56,820	57,380	60,750	70,780	65,450	69,530	70,450	71,090	64,920	58,610	55,460
Intrastate migratory.....	10,660	9,430	7,940	11,240	30,080	19,900	21,770	22,350	19,040	13,970	12,020	10,990
Interstate migratory.....	3,580	3,080	3,240	5,620	8,880	4,920	6,500	6,100	4,720	3,940	3,590	2,750
Section B. Use of expected employment												
Total.....	190,770	185,690	184,710	194,610	225,240	204,680	212,060	214,250	210,200	199,380	189,470	183,760
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	18,600	16,750	22,870	34,870	78,360	53,400	48,910	44,200	29,290	16,720	14,110	21,840
Major Vegetables.....	15,090	13,200	11,860	14,600	13,780	11,620	10,220	10,260	10,270	7,450	4,430	4,460
Major Field Crops.....	24,570	19,590	14,250	10,690	9,180	13,160	30,280	38,040	48,990	49,340	45,060	31,630
All other farm work.....	132,510	136,150	135,730	134,450	123,920	126,500	122,650	121,750	121,650	125,870	125,870	125,830
Section C. Preceding year's employment												
Total.....	191,710r	186,900r	187,200r	196,700r	226,890r	205,580r	212,890r	215,240r	211,380r	200,860r	191,140r	185,880r
Farmers, unpaid family, and regular hired...	116,790r	116,260r	116,050r	116,900r	115,400r	114,310r	114,760r	115,250r	115,250r	116,450r	115,150r	114,460r
Local.....	59,940	57,120	57,680	61,050	71,080	65,750	69,810	70,750	71,390	65,220	58,910	55,760
Intrastate migratory.....	11,200	10,160	9,780	12,680	31,180	20,400	21,870	22,940	19,590	14,700	12,860	12,190
Interstate migratory.....	3,780	3,360	3,690	6,070	9,230	5,120	6,450	6,300	5,150	4,490	4,220	3,470

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Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop and Need
for Contract Mexican Nationals
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-05

Area: SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	203,290	199,260	201,130	212,150	254,440	236,650	248,510	246,920	232,280	213,940	199,250	191,310
2. Expected employment.....	190,770	185,690	184,710	194,610	225,240	204,680	212,060	214,250	210,200	199,380	189,470	183,760
3. Estimated shortage.....	12,520	13,570	16,420	17,540	29,200	31,970	36,450	32,670	22,080	14,560	9,780	7,550
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	3,620	3,620	4,930	7,530	10,740	10,210	6,810	6,100	4,680	3,840	4,190	3,410
b. Vegetable crops.....	6,060	7,450	9,290	7,620	16,720	20,130	17,260	13,050	6,030	2,350	1,470	1,440
c. Field crops.....	1,400	1,310	830	290	460	330	11,380	12,620	10,720	7,830	3,420	2,200
d. All other agriculture.....	1,440	1,190	1,370	2,100	1,280	1,300	1,000	900	650	540	700	500
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals (1).....	5,670	6,300	6,860	9,100	16,300	20,100	19,500	17,340	10,580	4,330	3,600	2,830
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (2)	700	370	950	1,000	3,120	2,655	5,760	8,080	7,010	3,150	2,850	150

(1) Includes only those Mexican Nationals who were actually working. Excludes those who were ill, on furlough, or who were awaiting assignment or repatriation.

(2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

ES-229 - SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTHEAST COUNTIES

JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR REQUIREMENTS (See Table I)

I. Trends

This is one of the more conservative areas in California, where changes are gradual rather than sudden, where mechanization has progressed more slowly, where there is little change in the yearly agricultural pattern except that brought about by higher or lower crop production, and where principal harvests are of fruit and nuts, field crops, and tomatoes.

As in other areas, the number of small farms is decreasing, but at a slower rate. Larger farms are also expanding, but not as rapidly as in other areas, and a few new large farms have come into existence.

Industrial expansion is progressing slowly, having little effect on farm land. Residential areas, however, are increasing rapidly in the areas contiguous to Sacramento, replacing vineyards and some olive orchards. Subdivision expansion also is occurring in the vicinity of Red Bluff, Redding, Woodland, and Vacaville, but the progress is slow.

New land is constantly being developed for agricultural use. In Butte and Glenn Counties, approximately 2,500 new acres are being leveled and planted to row crops, rice, and irrigated pasture each year. For the most part, this land lies along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. In the northern counties of Shasta and Tehama, thousands of acres in the lower foothills have been converted to irrigated pasture and range land for summer feeding of cattle, and new land is being developed for production of strawberry plants to supply the increasing demand in Central Coast counties. South of the City of Sacramento, in the Elk Grove district, new land also is being developed for agricultural use.

There has been some change in crops raised in the area in the past few years, principally as a result of controls on production of rice and sugar beets. Greatest increases have occurred in plantings of field corn, seed crops, and safflower in addition to strawberry plants.

Many of the farms in this area are quite diversified, so mechanization has made comparatively slow progress. It is increasing, however, in harvests of potatoes, hops, rice, grain, and hay, and is starting in harvests of almonds, walnuts, and strawberry plants.

II. Assumptions

Current weather conditions indicate that the harvest seasons will approximate those of 1955 except in harvests of potatoes and strawberry plants which are expected to start earlier. In 1955, a late frost did serious damage to almonds, peaches, plums, and prunes. No damage has occurred this year, and none is anticipated. Heavy winter rains have provided a good water supply, and have had beneficial effects on most fruit trees. The fruit set has been heavy, and higher yield per acre is expected.

Market conditions are expected to approximate those of 1955.

III. Labor Requirements

Estimates of labor requirements are based on the tabulation of acreage and production and changes from 1955 which precedes Table I. Agricultural work will be performed on approximately 1,608,500 acres, about 12,750 acres more than in 1955. Principal acreage increases are in tomatoes, grain, alfalfa, dry beans, sugar beets, and orchards. There is a sharp drop in rice acreage for 1956.

Labor requirements increase sharply each period from 55,700 in early July to a peak of 82,700 in early September when fruit and tomato harvests overlap. Requirements decline slightly during late September and early October, after which the decrease is sharper from period to period until late December when 45,650 workers will be required.

Changes in labor requirements, 1956 from 1955, reflect primarily higher production in fruit from early August to mid-October, and a greater need for tomato pickers in September and early October. Total labor requirements are from 300 to 700 higher until August 15, 3,300 higher in late August, 6,700 and 7,700 higher in the two September periods, 5,000 higher in early October, between 1,450 and 3,700 higher from October 16 to November 30, and approximately 800 higher in December.

Fruit and Nuts. The number of workers needed for fruit harvests is 230 and 170 higher than in 1955 during July, and 600 greater in early August. When fruit harvests overlap, the increase is sharper: 3,100 in late August, 5,400 and 3,800 in September, 750 and 1,800 in October, 3,100 and 2,500 in November, and 700 and 550 in December. The increases in labor requirements represent not only the greater number of workers needed because of increased acreage, but, also the difference between poor crops of 1955 and near bumper crop production expected in 1956.

Almonds. The 1955 crop was approximately 20 percent of normal, and high production is expected this year. The harvest in Yuba County was so small in 1955 that it did not qualify as a major activity, but will in 1956. Labor requirements are 970 higher than 1955 in late August, 1950 and 1,700 higher in the two September periods, and 150 higher in early October.

Apricots. Lower production will decrease labor requirements by 170 and 300 in the two July periods.

Strawberry Plants. Labor requirements are 250 higher from October 1 to November 30, about the same in early December, and 70 higher in late December. Harvest is expected to start about one month earlier and reach a peak in November rather than in March as in 1955 when digging, which started late, was beset by unfavorable weather conditions.

Olives. Production of canning varieties was light in 1955 and cannery stocks are low. There is a heavy set in the canning varieties this year, and heavy cannery demand is anticipated. Labor requirements are 300 and 1,500 higher in the two October periods, 2,600 and 2,150 higher in November, and 650 higher in early December.

Peaches. Although an estimated 3,500 acres of trees were lost in the 1955 flood, this has been more than offset by new plantings in the area which will come into production this year. Yield per acre is also expected to be considerably higher than in 1955 when frost damaged the crop. Labor requirements are 70 higher in late July, 200 greater than 1955 in early August, and 530 and 480

higher in late August and early September respectively. Most of the production increase is anticipated in late varieties, which is expected to lengthen the harvest slightly.

Pears. In the foothill counties frost damage resulted in a 60 percent crop in 1955. No damage has occurred this year. Labor requirements are 100-200 higher in July and higher in early August when the Sacramento River district crop harvest is at a peak. In late August and early September, when the foothill harvest is at a peak, labor requirements have been increased by 770 and 470. In the last two forecast periods in the harvest, labor requirements are 80 and 40 higher.

Plums. Frost damage cut 1955 production in Butte and Placer Counties. Increases in both acreage and production will raise labor requirements by 300 and 200 in the July periods, and by 130 and 50 during August.

Prunes. There was an exceptionally small and spotty prune crop in 1955. For 1956 higher yield on a larger acreage is anticipated. Labor requirements are 750 larger than in 1955 in late August, and 2,450 and 2,050 higher in the two September periods.

Walnuts. Labor requirements are slightly higher than in 1955 during October, 180 higher in early November, and 50 higher in late November.

Orchards. Although acreage is greater, labor requirements will be less than 100 higher in all periods except late December. Approximately 500 more pruners will be required in late December, since floods prevented maximum activity during this period in 1955.

Vegetables. Labor requirements are about the same as in 1955 until mid-August after which they increase by 220 in late August, 1,230 and 3,720 during the September periods, 4,000 in early October, and by 480 and 120 in November. A change in season will decrease the number of workers needed in late October by 400.

Potatoes. Lateness of the 1955 harvest created an abnormal labor requirement. the 1956 harvest is expected to start two weeks earlier. A slight increase in mechanization will reduce peak labor requirements by approximately 100. Labor requirements are 600 greater in late September, 750 larger in early October, 1,150 lower in late October, and 250 lower in early November.

Tomatoes. An earlier start in hoeing will reduce labor requirements by 50 in the two July periods. A 22 percent increase in acreage is expected to increase labor requirements by 220 in late August, 1,230 and 3,120 in the two September periods, 3,270 and 750 in October, and by 730 and 125 in November. These estimates are based on a normal harvest period, and make no allowance for the possibility that processing plants may not be able to handle the volume. If delivery quotas are imposed, the peak period will be lowered and lengthened, and the harvest will be extended as long as weather permits.

Field Crops. Despite a 900 acre increase, labor requirements are expected to show little change since most harvests are mechanized. Requirements are from 20 to 90 lower in late October, late November, and late December. During the three forecast periods from July 1 to August 15, approximately 150, 110, and 80 workers will be needed. In remaining periods, labor requirements are from 40 to 80 higher.

Beans, Dry. Labor requirements for hoeing are 100, 70, and 50 higher in the two July periods and in early August respectively. The number of workers needed for the harvest will be about the same as in 1955.

Grain, Small. Approximately 25 more workers will be required in July, and in early October.

Hay. Labor requirements are 20 higher in all harvest periods.

Rice. Peak labor requirements in late October will be 140 lower than in 1955. Other periods in the harvest will not be affected by the reduction in acreage.

Sugar Beets. Labor requirements are from 10 to 30 higher.

All Other Agriculture. Labor requirements range from a low of 38,300 in late December to a high of 46,500 in early August. Percentage distribution of activities included in this category is as follows: land preparation and planting, 3 percent; cultivating, 16 percent; irrigating, 31 percent; dairies, 7 percent; livestock, 15 percent; poultry, 5 percent; minor crop harvests, 8 percent; and all other miscellaneous activities, 15 percent. Labor requirements are 50 higher in July, about the same as in 1955 during August, from 90 to 130 higher from September 1 to December 15, and 50 higher in late December.

JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SUPPLY (See Table II)

I. Trends and Assumptions

Skilled and semiskilled workers continue to leave the farm labor force for employment in other industries, and there is no reason to believe the trend will change as long as economic conditions generally remain at a high level. This siphoning off of the better quality workers is leaving a greater proportion of "sub-standard" workers in the domestic agricultural labor force. This situation, in turn, is raising labor turnover and causing lower man-day output among domestic workers. Lumbering, railroads, canneries, Aero-Jet, Benicia Arsenal, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, and McClellan, Mather, and Travis Air Force Bases are drawing on the farm labor force to fill their needs for workers.

Migrant workers are not settling permanently in this area as they are in the San Joaquin Valley. A few have taken up residence, but have become employed in nonagricultural industries. The supply of migrant farm workers has been dwindling gradually, and this trend is expected to continue.

Youth and housewives are used in harvests of almonds and prunes, in the cutting of peaches, pears, and apricots, and in strawberry plant trimming. This supply also is decreasing, as family heads obtain better paying work thus reducing the necessity for wives and children to work.

Estimates of employment of domestic workers are based on the assumption that current trends will continue, that high agricultural production in other areas of California will keep more migrants in home areas, and that the generally favorable economic conditions in the nation will provide better paying nonagricultural jobs for workers in other states as well as in California, thus reducing the supply of migrant farm workers.

II. Employment

Employment of domestic farm workers builds up rapidly from a low of 51,310 in early July to the peak of 82,700 in early September, and then declines through the remainder of the forecast period to 45,650 in late December. Estimates are 280 to 170 lower than in 1955 from July 1 to August 15. Higher production in the popular fruit harvests and in tomatoes is expected to increase employment by 80 in late August, and by 140 and 170 in September. The general exodus of workers after the fruit harvests and first picking of tomatoes are finished probably will decrease employment in October and November to a level which is 220-270 below that of 1955. Compensation for flood conditions in 1955, and the certainty that pruning will be heavier in December will bring 70-240 more pruners into the work force in the last month.

Employment by Type of Worker

The number of farmers is declining gradually. At the same time the narrower margin of profit is bringing more unpaid family workers into the employment picture. Lower farm prices are causing farmers in some counties to reduce the number of year-round workers employed. On the other hand, the lower quality and scarcity of domestic farm workers is resulting in the addition of hired year-round workers in other counties. Estimates of employment for farmers, unpaid

family, and hired year-round workers have been increased by 50 from July 1 to November 30. Increases amount to 70 and 240 in the two December periods when orchard pruning is under way.

Local workers continue to leave the farm labor market. Since a tight labor market is expected to exist in nonagricultural industries which usually employ farm workers, this decline in supply is expected to continue. Estimates are 100 below those of 1955 in all forecast periods.

For migratory workers, it is assumed generally that the supply will be somewhat smaller, based on experience of 1955 and the spring of 1956. This assumption has been modified however, since extremely poor production in the fruit crops which usually hold high attraction for migrant workers caused many workers to stay out of the area in 1955. It is assumed that more migrants will arrive for fruit harvests in late August and during September because better production will provide higher earnings than was possible in 1955.

Employment of intrastate workers is expected to be 120, 100, and 70 below 1955 in the first three forecast periods respectively. From mid-August to September 30, from 60 to 120 more workers are estimated. Upon completion of the principal fruit harvests in September, estimates have been lowered by approximately 120 until December 1. Higher requirements for orchard pruning in December are expected to increase employment by 50 and 80.

It is estimated that there will be from 50 to 110 fewer interstate migrants employed in July and early August, between 70 and 100 more in late August and in September, from 70 to 100 fewer in October and November, and 20-60 more in December.

Employment by Major Crop Group

Employment in fruit and nuts is expected to be from 170 to 280 below that of 1955 in July and early August, from 90 to 140 higher from August 15 to September 30 (principally in peaches, prunes, and almonds), from 80 to 290 lower from October 1 to November 30, and 90 and 260 higher in the two December pruning periods. Lower employment is estimated in the first three forecast periods because of the smaller apricot crop. Higher employment is expected for harvests of plums, peaches, prunes, and almonds. Fewer single men are expected to be available for the harvest of olives but employment in orchard pruning probably will be higher.

Little change is expected in employment of vegetable workers except in late September and early October. Estimates have been increased by 80 and 20 in these periods on the assumption that some migrant potato workers will come into the area earlier because of the earlier start in the harvest.

Little change is expected in field crop employment until mid-October. Lower requirements in the rice harvest will reduce the number of combine operators and truck drivers by 140 in late October. Employment is expected to be from 20 to 50 lower in November and December.

No change is expected in employment in "all other agriculture".

III. Types of Workers

Opportunities for the employment of women are developing in strawberry plant trimming. The industry is relatively new but is growing rapidly, with the added

attraction of employment in late fall and early winter months when other farm activities are slowing. Strawberry plant production is centered in Shasta and Tehama Counties, and the women employed in trimming are mostly housewives. Prunes offer employment for families and about every family that follows fruit harvests may find work picking prunes. The crop is exceptionally heavy this year and good earnings are in prospect.

Available local labor can find employment in almost any fruit or vegetable crop. The supply is expected to be smaller in most areas, but there may be some locals attracted to agriculture who are not normally in the farm labor supply. These are not expected to be available all through the season, but only long enough to earn a little extra money.

Youths have always been used in such crops as fruit picking and drying and tomato picking. This source of labor is expected to be smaller this year due to higher paying job opportunities in other types of work.

Sacramento is the source of an extensive day-haul operation made up of both local and itinerant labor. These workers are sometimes hauled a distance of 60 to 80 miles daily. During the past year the city has made a determined drive to eliminate the undesirables. This has resulted in reducing the supply of the more desirable workers as well. Therefore this source of labor is expected to be smaller this season.

Indians from reservations in Nevada are going to be used this year in the Placerville area pear harvest. This is an exploratory plan in an effort to discover a new source of labor for an area which is remote from the usual farm labor supply.

IV. Origin of Migratory Workers

Migratory workers come into the area from all directions. Workers from Washington and Oregon come down from the North seeking work in the potato harvest in the northern part of California, and in the fruit harvest farther south. These make up the bulk of our interstate workers, although a few come in from as far east as Oklahoma and from Texas in the South. Immigration of these interstate workers begins about July and their outmigration is usually at the end of the potato harvest in October. The decreasing number of interstate workers has stimulated the development of mechanical harvesters the most noted of which is the potato digger.

Intrastate workers shift from one area to another as the major crops become active. Tomato pickers usually shift to cotton picking and fruit workers migrate to different crops as the seasons develop. Most of the latter group withdraw from the labor market when the fruit season ends.

V. Recruitment Plans

Many types or methods of recruitment will be utilized. Spot announcements on radios urging people to apply for peach thinning work occurred for the first time this year. Since the response to these appeals was negligible, it may be concluded that the same results will be obtained during the harvest season. Day-hauls will continue from the Sacramento area. We will continue to urge transfer of crews from one employer to another at every opportunity. Field visitors will be instructed to investigate the areas of greatest need and efforts will be made to channel labor into such areas. The Weekly Farm Labor Report will be used to full advantage as a recruiting aid. Growers will be advised of the recruiting advantages of good housing, transportation facilities and proper wage structures.

JULY - DECEMBER 1956

LABOR SHORTAGE (See Table III)

Both local and migrant workers are employed in the almond harvest. Local women work in the hullers, while older boys shake trees. Migrants usually are single men. Last year, the labor supply was tight for a small harvest, and fewer local workers are expected to be available, so shortages are expected in September this year.

The supply of workers for the strawberry plant harvest is dependent on weather conditions, location of beds, and the competitive demand for lumber workers. The fields are in isolated districts since they must be moved frequently. Consequently, housing is not available for workers. Plants are grown in "snow country", and it is difficult to recruit workers to dig through snow and work in the cold climate. Turnover is extremely high, and labor shortages are anticipated.

The 1955 prune crop was frozen out and picking was spotty. Workers would not stay regardless of wages paid. Recruitment for this harvest starts with peach pickers, so the supply of workers is dependent partly on the number of workers available for peach picking. This basic labor supply is augmented by arrival of migrant family groups. Raids by the Wages and Hours Division of the Department of Labor in 1955 caused workers to leave the area in the middle of the harvest. Most of the workers involved in the 1955 raids stated at the time that they would not be back this year. On the other hand, some family groups not in the area in 1955 probably will come in because of higher production. Whether the number will offset the supply which will be lost is doubtful, and shortages are expected in August and September.

In past years, the peach harvest attracted many migrant workers. During the last two or three years, brown rot and frost damage have caused the supply of pickers to dwindle gradually. In 1955, early publicity regarding extensive frost damage kept many more migrants out of the area. Wide publicity concerning 1955 flood damage and consequent loss of acreage has not been tempered by publicity concerning new orchards coming into bearing this year. It has been modified to some extent, however, by less widely circulated publicity regarding heavier production this year. Since newspaper publicity concerning crop conditions have a decided effect upon decisions made by migrant workers, it is assumed that some peach pickers will refrain from migrating to this area, and shortages are expected to develop.

Probably, the most difficult recruitment problems of the season occur in the olive harvest. Housing is limited, and pickers work in cold rainy weather in soggy orchards. Few local farm workers will participate in this harvest, and the better class of migrant workers are not interested. Consequently, the labor supply is more or less limited to the "wino" group of single men and turnover is high. With increased production this year, severe labor shortages are expected.

1. Approximately 4,500 Mexican Nationals are expected to be working in the area on July 1.
2. An estimated 1,600 Mexican Nationals will be required from January 1 through February 1957.

There are seven major Mexican National procurement associations operating in the area. Each of them is taking on from 10 to 20 percent more members, which is direct evidence that many more growers are using or plan to use Mexican Nationals than ever before. Inquiries have been received from growers who operate in counties where

Nationals have never been used. They want to know the procedure to establish the need of supplemental labor and how to get it.

Most of the growers recognize that adequate housing for families would attract this type of labor, but they point out that housing for single workers, such as that required for Mexican Nationals, is much less expensive. Families usually are made up of two or three nonworkers while single-man housing is fully utilized by workers.

Present prospects indicate bumper production in practically all crops in the area as compared with many crops damaged by adverse weather conditions last year.

This assumption reflects a greater need for all types of labor than ever before as compared with a dwindling supply of domestic labor.

The 1955 bumper crop was frozen out and picking was greatly reduced. Workers would not stay regardless of wages paid. Horticulturists for this harvest started with peach pickers, so the supply of workers is dependent partly on the number of workers available for peach picking. This peach labor supply is suggested by arrival of migrant families. Hints by the wages and hours division of the Department of Labor in 1955 caused workers to leave the area in the middle of the harvest. Most of the workers involved in the 1955 strike stated at the time that they would not be back this year. On the other hand, some family groups not in the area in 1955 probably will come in because of higher production. Whether the number will offset the supply which will be lost is doubtful, and shortages are expected in August and September.

In past years, the peach harvest attracted many migrant workers. During the last two or three years, brown rot and frost damage have caused the supply of pickers to dwindle. In 1955, early pickers regarding extensive frost damage kept away from the area. The publicity concerning 1955 frost damage and consequent loss of workers has not been tempered by publicity concerning new orchards coming into bearing this year. It has been noted to some extent, however, by late widely circulated publicity regarding heavier production this year. These newspapers publicly concerning crop conditions have a decided effect upon decisions made by migrant workers. It is assumed that some peach pickers will return from migrating to this area, and shortages are expected to develop.

Probably the most difficult recruitment problem of the season occurs in the olive harvest. Housing is limited, and pickers work in cold rainy weather in soggy orchards. Few local farm workers will participate in this harvest, and the better class of migrant workers are not interested. Consequently, the labor supply is more or less limited to the "white" group of ethnic men and turnover is high. With increased production this year, severe labor shortages are expected.

1. Approximately 5,000 Mexican Nationals are expected to be working in the area on July 1.

2. An estimated 1,000 Mexican Nationals will be reported from January 1 through February 1957.

There are seven major Mexican National promotional associations operating in the area. Each of them is taking on from 10 to 25 percent more members, which is direct evidence that many more growers are using or plan to use Mexican Nationals than ever before. Inquiries have been received from growers who operate in counties where

Estimated Acreage and Production of Major Crops in 1956
and Changes from 1955

Area Number: 10-5-06

Area: SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTH EAST COUNTIES

Crop and Activity	1955		1956		Change from 1955	
	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production	Acreage	Production
Total.....	1,595,840		1,608,659		+12,819	
Fruit and Nuts.....Total	142,476		144,146		+ 1,970	
Almonds harvest....	46,810	16,600 T	46,820	24,166 T	+ 10	+ 7,566 T
Apricots harvest....	6,185	30,239 FT	5,985	27,655 FT	- 200	- 2,584 FT
Berries, Straw. Plants dig-pack...	412	184,000,000 Plants	472	210,800,000 Plants	+ 60	+26,800,000 Plants
Grapes harvest....	620	2,600 FT	620	3,000 FT	0	+ 400 FT
Olives harvest....	10,380	9,150 FT	10,380	23,550 FT	0	+ 14,400 FT
Peaches harvest....	20,880	213,681 FT	21,180	239,110 FT	+ 300	+ 25,429 FT
Pears harvest....	17,554	193,652 FT	18,254	222,622 FT	+ 700	+ 28,970 FT
Plums harvest....	7,850	23,950 FT	8,200	28,775 FT	+ 350	+ 4,825 FT
Prunes harvest....	21,385	27,611 DT	21,785	44,525 DT	+ 400	+ 16,914 DT
Walnuts harvest....	10,400	6,435 T	10,750	8,860 T	+ 350	+ 2,425 T
Orchards prune.....	107,200*	--	108,350*	--	+ 1,150*	0
Vegetables.....Total	56,680	1,073,800 T	66,630	1,207,545 T	+ 9,950	+ 195,745 T
Cucumbers harvest....	130		130		0	0
Potatoes harvest....	11,200	112,000 T	11,200	112,000 T	0	0
Tomatoes thin-hoe-harvest....	45,350	961,800 T	55,300	1,157,545 T	+ 9,950	+ 195,745 T
Field Crops.....Total	1,396,684	3,249,942 T	1,397,583	3,317,648 T	+ 899	+ 67,706 T
Beans, Dry harvest....	43,500	32,450 T	46,500	34,600 T	+ 3,000	+ 2,150 T
Grain, Small harvest....	760,400	761,930 T	767,900	773,380 T	+ 7,500	+ 11,450 T
Hay, Alfalfa and Others harvest....	275,500	787,100 T	276,500	793,100 T	+ 1,000	+ 6,000 T
Hops harvest....	4,663	39,245 T	4,843	40,203 T	180	958 T
Rice harvest....	252,705	426,620 T	240,140	392,577 T	-12,565	- 34,043 T
Sugar Beets harvest....	59,916	1,202,597 T	61,700	1,283,788 T	+ 1,784	+ 81,191 T

*Excluded from total

Table 1
Estimated Total Number of Workers Required by Crop Activity
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-06

Area: SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTH EAST COUNTIES

Crop Activity	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total Requirement.....	55,660	58,520	66,170	75,550	82,690	79,130	75,460	68,500	59,550	49,820	47,420	45,650
Fruit and Nuts..... Total	4,580	8,940	15,410	23,500	21,910	11,860	4,280	6,580	8,330	7,720	6,920	7,120
Almonds harvest.....	--	--	300	4,330	6,510	5,350	1,650	300	--	--	--	--
Apricots harvest.....	1,520	200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Berries, straw-plants dig-pack.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	250	250	500	500	500	500
Grapes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	150	150	--	--	--	--
Olives harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,200	4,050	5,250	4,150	1,550	220
Peaches harvest.....	160	1,810	6,680	7,450	3,080	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Pears harvest.....	1,300	5,730	7,130	6,170	2,730	730	190	--	--	--	--	--
Plums harvest.....	1,600	1,200	880	250	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prunes harvest.....	--	--	420	5,300	9,590	5,780	200	--	--	--	--	--
Walnuts harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	--	640	1,380	1,480	250	--	--
Orchards prune	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	450	1,100	2,820	4,870	6,400
Vegetables..... Total	300	50	120	990	9,740	18,020	19,870	11,400	5,930	200	--	--
Cucumbers harvest.....	--	--	120	170	160	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Potatoes harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	600	1,350	300	--	--	--	--
Tomatoes hoe-harvest.....	300	50	--	820	9,580	17,420	18,520	11,100	5,930	200	--	--
Field Crops..... Total	4,920	3,530	4,140	5,760	4,690	3,010	5,210	5,890	2,670	1,050	950	200
Beans, dry hoe-harvest.....	350	270	100	50	400	400	350	200	100	--	--	--
Grain, small harvest.....	1,350	650	560	650	450	250	100	--	--	--	--	--
Hay, Alfalfa & other harvest.....	2,570	2,610	2,280	1,770	1,440	1,000	740	460	250	--	--	--
Hops harvest.....	--	--	800	2,370	1,200	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rice harvest.....	--	--	--	--	--	60	2,700	3,960	1,220	--	--	--
Sugar beets hoe-harvest.....	650	--	400	920	1,200	1,300	1,320	1,270	1,100	1,050	950	200
All other agriculture.....	45,860	46,000	46,500	45,300	46,350	46,240	46,100	44,630	42,620	40,850	39,550	38,330

Table II
Expected and Preceding Year's Employment of Domestic Workers in Agriculture
By Type of Worker and Use of Expected Employment by Class of Crop
July - December 1956

Area Number: 10-5-06

Area: SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND NORTH EAST COUNTIES

I T E M	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Section A. Origin of expected employment												
Total.....	51,310	53,450	58,100	64,350	66,060	57,300	55,580	56,340	49,860	45,450	45,340	44,390
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired.....	37,650	37,500	39,620	41,220	41,600	40,050	39,420	38,750	36,250	34,970	34,790	33,860
Local.....	9,610	10,660	12,030	14,200	15,540	12,030	11,700	11,810	9,630	7,180	6,890	6,760
Intrastate migratory.....	2,930	3,670	4,530	6,610	6,680	3,580	3,150	4,330	2,950	2,560	2,970	3,140
Interstate migratory.....	1,120	1,620	1,920	2,320	2,240	1,640	1,310	1,450	1,030	740	690	630
Section B. Use of expected employment												
Total.....	51,310	53,450	58,100	64,350	66,060	57,300	55,580	56,340	49,860	45,450	45,340	44,390
Major Fruit and Nuts.....	2,920	6,210	9,760	15,330	13,760	6,530	2,080	4,300	4,610	4,370	5,520	6,170
Major Vegetables.....	230	40	10	260	2,460	2,530	3,190	2,610	850	20	--	--
Major Field Crops.....	4,170	3,390	3,710	5,160	4,360	2,960	5,080	5,840	2,560	1,020	740	200
All other farm work.....	43,990	43,810	44,620	43,600	45,480	45,280	45,230	43,590	41,840	40,040	39,080	38,020
Section C. Preceding year's employment												
Total.....	51,590	53,680	58,270	64,270	65,920	57,130	55,850	56,560	50,100	45,710	45,270	44,150
Farmers, unpaid family and regular hired.....	37,600	37,450	39,570	41,170	41,550	40,000	39,370	38,700	36,200	34,920	34,690	33,660
Local.....	9,710	10,760	12,130	14,300	15,640	12,130	11,800	11,910	9,730	7,280	6,990	6,860
Intrastate migratory.....	3,050	3,770	4,600	6,550	6,580	3,460	3,270	4,430	3,070	2,680	2,920	3,060
Interstate migratory.....	1,230	1,700	1,970	2,250	2,150	1,540	1,410	1,520	1,100	830	670	570

Table III
Estimated Shortage by Class of Crop and Need for Contract of Mexican Nationals
July - December 1956

Area: SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND
NORTH EAST COUNTIES

Area Number: 10-5-06

Item	July		August		September		October		November		December	
	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1. Workers required.....	55,660	58,520	66,170	75,550	82,690	79,130	75,460	68,500	59,550	49,820	47,420	45,650
2. Expected employment.....	51,310	53,450	58,100	64,350	66,060	57,300	55,580	56,340	49,860	45,450	45,340	44,390
3. Estimated shortage.....	4,350	5,070	8,070	11,200	16,630	21,830	19,880	12,160	9,690	4,370	2,080	1,260
a. Fruit and nut crops.....	1,660	2,730	5,650	8,170	8,150	5,330	2,200	2,280	3,720	3,350	1,400	950
b. Vegetable crops.....	70	10	110	730	7,280	15,490	16,680	8,790	5,080	180	--	--
c. Field crops.....	750	140	430	600	330	50	130	50	110	30	210	--
d. All other agriculture.....	1,870	2,190	1,880	1,700	870	960	870	1,040	780	810	470	310
4. Last year's employment of Mexican Nationals (1).....	3,700	4,390	6,560	7,800	9,290	14,290	14,060	10,110	5,570	1,260	1,070	900
5. Last year's unmet demand for workers (2)	--	180	650	150	760	10	600	400	160	160	240	--

(1) Includes only those Mexican Nationals who were actually employed. Excludes those who were ill, on furlough, or who were awaiting assignment or repatriation.

(2) Includes unfilled orders and shortages which resulted in crop loss.

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT
 RECEIVED
 JUL 23 1956
 FARM LABOR OFFICE
 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

(1) The following information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be used for any other purpose.

Name of Employer	Address	City	State	County	Zip	Date of Report	Type of Report	Number of Employees	Number of Hours	Total Wages	Total Value of Production	Total Value of Services	Total Value of Materials	Total Value of Supplies	Total Value of Other Inputs	Total Value of Outputs	Total Value of Services	Total Value of Materials	Total Value of Supplies	Total Value of Other Inputs	Total Value of Outputs
1. Name of Employer																					
2. Address																					
3. City																					
4. State																					
5. County																					
6. Zip																					
7. Date of Report																					
8. Type of Report																					
9. Number of Employees																					
10. Number of Hours																					
11. Total Wages																					
12. Total Value of Production																					
13. Total Value of Services																					
14. Total Value of Materials																					
15. Total Value of Supplies																					
16. Total Value of Other Inputs																					
17. Total Value of Outputs																					

This report is to be filed with the nearest office of the Department of Employment, State of California, within 10 days of the date of the report. The report should be filed in the office of the nearest office of the Department of Employment, State of California, within 10 days of the date of the report. The report should be filed in the office of the nearest office of the Department of Employment, State of California, within 10 days of the date of the report.